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# WESLEYAN

## *Magazine*

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 1  
SPRING 1997

# *The Ackerman Years*

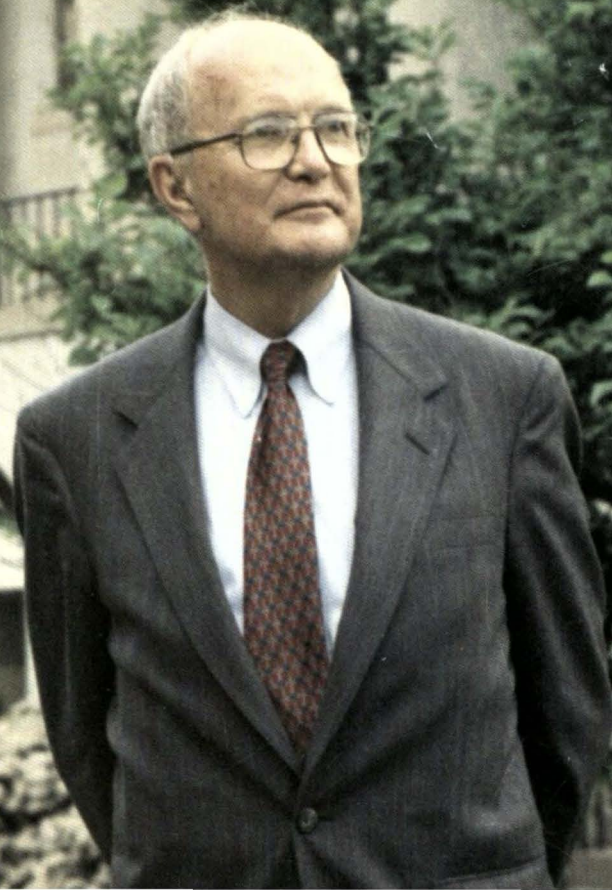
## **1984–1997**

**An overview of progress at  
Wesleyan over the past  
thirteen years—and the  
past thirteen weeks**

**Reinventing liberal education**

**Wesleyan and the  
Allman Brothers Band**

**A legacy of Lucias**





## From the Chair of the Board of Trustees

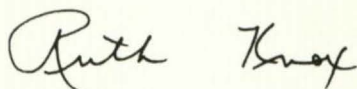
Another chapter in Wesleyan's "glorious past" will close this June with the retirement of the college's twenty-second president, Robert Kilgo Ackerman. Though we look forward to the new chapter that will open with the inauguration of our next chief executive, we would like to look back at the progress Wesleyan College has made during President Ackerman's thirteen-year tenure.

Wesleyan has made significant strides under Bob Ackerman's leadership. Some of these have been the direct result of his own initiatives; others are attributable to the diligent teamwork of faculty, staff, trustees, and students. Enrollment and endowment alike have increased; academics, athletics, and the arts have seen improvements even through "growing pains." Without a doubt, President Ackerman will pass to his successor the helm of an institution that is strong, healthy, and ready for the twenty-first century.

While we congratulate the Ackermans on a job well done and wish them a fond farewell, we should all share in this moment of praise. As you read the stories on the following pages, I hope you will enjoy recalling the accomplishments of the past thirteen years and especially the role Wesleyan alumnae have played during this time.

A series of articles in this issue of *Wesleyan Magazine* features "the Ackerman years" in retrospect. We must not dwell exclusively in the past, however, so each section also includes a look at some exciting developments among current students and alumnae, as well as in the undergraduate curriculum.

To Bob and May Ackerman: the best wishes of the entire Wesleyan community are with you. You will hear this sentiment expressed often in the weeks to come. But here, in print, we want to say it for the record: May God continue to bless you and your family as abundantly as you have blessed us.

  
Ruth A. Knox '75

### On the Cover



Robert K. Ackerman, by his own words "a man born for the eighteenth century, not the twentieth,"

has done a great deal to prepare Wesleyan College for the twenty-first century. This issue provides a retrospective of his administration, as the college prepares for a change of leadership.

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# WESLEYAN

## Magazine

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 1 • SPRING 1997

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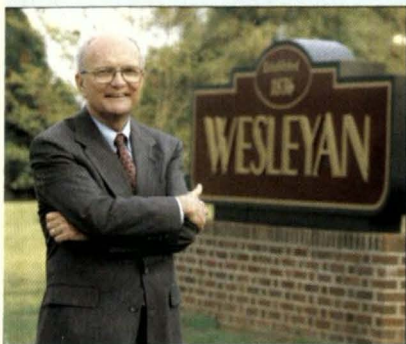
The silhouetted elements pictured throughout this issue are all found in the Candler Alumnae Center, which was recently renovated through the contributions of the Alumnae Association.



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**A**s a fourteen-year-old, Robert Kilgo Ackerman walked daily with his invalid father, letting him lean on his arm for support. "As we walked each day, I developed an adoration for my father. I adored him—and he died on me,"



Ackerman recalls, a sadness evident in his eyes even now, after nearly fifty years without his father.

For two years, Ackerman sank into a period of extreme grief over his father's death. "In my mind, I became worthless," he remembers.

A good student before his father's death, Ackerman became completely disinterested in his schoolwork, merely going through the motions day after day. His grades fell. He lacked motivation.

"Then a lady came to my school from Wisconsin and became my English teacher," Ackerman's eyes brighten at the memory. This teacher did something that forever changed a young life—she loaned a grieving teenager her books.

"I liked to read when I was younger, but I had lost interest," says Ackerman. Stimulated by this teacher's gift of books, Ackerman blossomed, and at high school graduation received several of the top academic honors. "My classmates were probably astounded," he recalls with amusement.

One teacher made a profound difference in his life when he needed it most. Louise Bignon, the Wisconsin English teacher, became his mentor. Years later, Mrs. Bignon's relationship with the young Bob Ackerman still influences his day-to-day philosophy of educating tomorrow's leaders.

Today, speaking of the college he

has led for thirteen years, Ackerman says, "One of the great values of Wesleyan is that we are small enough to develop mentor relationships," emphasizing that mentoring is an important part of a young person's education. In his inaugural address on October 19, 1984, Ackerman stated, "The metaphor which has occurred to me is that I am to be a midwife in the intellectual birth of women leaders."

### Mentee and Mentor

In looking towards retirement, Ackerman says he thinks he has accomplished his role as a midwife, or mentor. "It's all we can do, be a midwife," Ackerman explains. "We can't *make* leaders, we just aid in the process: take the fetus, give it a spank, and—" he gestures as if to say, "—send it on its way."

Recalling some of his own mentors—the English teacher who rekindled his love of reading; his father, whose love of history and commitment to education profoundly influenced him; the uncle who became his father-figure and who guided him in his early work as an archivist; his friend George Rogers, who directed his Ph.D. work—all of them helped mold Ackerman into a man who believes that being a successful mentor is one of an educator's greatest accomplishments.

Ackerman recalls his own mentoring experiences at Wesleyan. He speaks fondly of senior Evelyn Leatherman, for instance. "I think she is going to accomplish big things in her life," he says with pride. "We've become buddies."

Ackerman also recalls another student for whom he still holds a great deal of admiration and fondness—a student who came to Wesleyan not once, but twice.

Found guilty of plagiarism by the student Honor Court, the student was to be suspended. Ackerman winces at the memory. "Being a writer myself, I understand how unintentional plagiarism can happen. I didn't want to suspend her, and I absolutely *hated* doing it. The student court had ruled, though, and I really had no choice."

Ackerman recalls the day of the suspension and says that while the young woman was resigned to her fate, he was very apologetic about it. She left Wesleyan, but not for long; a semester later, she re-enrolled. "I was so proud of her for coming back," Ackerman recalled. "I rolled out the

# Farewell to First

Story by Beverly D. Peavy

red carpet for her. I wanted to help her."

Ackerman and the student went on to have a mutual admiration for each other—to the point that she once intervened in a squabble in front of Porter Auditorium to "protect" the man who had done so much for her.

"The students were having a party on campus with a *loud* rock band," Ackerman recalls. "It's not unusual during those events for May and me to get calls from the neighbors." On this



particular night, amid the band's noise, a neighbor came to the campus, obviously upset. "I guess being partially deaf is a blessing," Ackerman jokes, "because I couldn't tell what the man was saying, only that he was ranting and raving."

In the middle of the man's outburst, who should appear but the reinstated Wesleyanne, in miniskirt, combat boots and thigh-high tights. She grabbed Ackerman by both arms in an attempt to rescue him from the irate man.

"I remember thinking, 'This is *not* the image of Wesleyan we want to project,'" Ackerman laughs. Ackerman's youngest daughter, Bettye, assured him that miniskirts and combat boots were popular col-

beams with pride as he recalls her recent visit to his office. "She is working with a prominent bank," Ackerman said with delight. His pride in her—a student he mentored, suspended, and welcomed back to a second chance—is obvious.



*The Ackerman clan at the Bradley House: Standing, from left, son-in-law Mike and daughter Bettye Ackerman Garvin; Bob. Seated, from left: son-in-law Eddie and daughter Roxanne Ackerman Spencer, with their sons Robert and Andrew; May; daughter-in-law Mandy and son Mark Ackerman.*

the county Board of Elections. May was the daughter of an agriculture school teacher in Williston and a homemaker and former teacher.

Completing his baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees in history at the University of South Carolina,

Ackerman first worked as an archivist for the state of South Carolina, a position into which he was initially led by his uncle, himself an archivist. Ackerman always thought he would continue in archival work, but then his uncle introduced him to Tum Lesesne, president of Erskine College in Due West, South Carolina. Lesesne persisted in inviting Ackerman to teach at Erskine. "Two times I said no; the third time I agreed, but for one year *only*," Ackerman emphasized. The move to higher education lasted thirty-four years.

A U.S. Marine Corps lieutenant from 1956 until 1959 and a captain in the

Reserves from 1959 until 1965, Ackerman joined Erskine's faculty in 1963. In 1971 he was named vice president for academic and student affairs. From 1975 until he became Wesleyan's twenty-second president in 1984, he served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Drew, like Wesleyan, is a liberal arts college affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

### Wesleyan's "First Family"

At Wesleyan, where Bob Ackerman has had the third-longest tenure of any of the college's presidents, the Ackerman family has been a regular part of the college family.

Each of the Ackerman children, all now grown, lived at least a few months in Bradley House during the Ackermans' early years in Macon. Eldest son

# Wesleyan's Family

### A president malgré lui

Bob Ackerman's career is defined as much by his family life and community volunteer work as it is by his pro-

fessional positions, but he had no idea that the path he originally set out on would lead to a college presidency.

In the small town of Williston, South Carolina, Bob Ackerman and May Morgan were childhood sweethearts. "We were buddies long before there was any romance," he recalls with a chuckle. Bob's father was a teacher turned school superintendent of Williston-Elko schools; after his father's death, his mother became city clerk of Williston and later served on

legiate party attire, and there was nothing her father should be concerned about in terms of "appearances."

They all had a hearty laugh at the memory of the rock-band, ranting-neighbor, deaf-president, rescue-minded student's raucous confrontation—and the Ackermans henceforth left home whenever there was a rock concert on campus.

After reminiscing about the student's rescue attempt, Ackerman



Mark, an insurance broker in Columbia, South Carolina, is married and lives in Lexington, South Carolina, where the Ackermans have bought a retirement home. Bob looks forward to sailing with his son on the boat he will name "The Flying Dutchman" after the Wagner opera *Der Fliegende Hollander*, a tribute to the passion for opera that Bob and May share.

Daughter Roxanne Spencer is married to a Presbyterian minister and lives in Lakeland, Florida. She is the mother of Robert Ackerman Spencer (named for his "Papa") and Andrew Edward Spencer. Robert, according to his grandparents, is the serious grandchild, while Andrew is the family clown.

The youngest Ackerman, Bettye, is married and lives in Macon. An attorney working at the Mercer University School of Law, she provides her parents with "a good excuse to come back and visit Macon," they say.

Although May has been a wife, mother, and community volunteer throughout their forty-one-year marriage, Bob is the first to heap accolades on her as a supportive partner in his career—a career that has sensitized him to women's issues.

"Wesleyan has made me more interested in women's issues," Ackerman said. "I had some interest before, as dean of Drew. In fact, I got along well with the militant feminists

there." At Wesleyan, however, Ackerman's interest and involvement in women's issues has become even keener.

His commitment to women's issues was put to the test when he played a key role in breaking the gender barrier in the Macon Rotary Club, a group long known for its male-only membership. A member of Rotary in Macon since 1984, Ackerman recalls that he and another member spoke in favor of admitting women. Their proposal was voted down.

Though some members resigned in protest, Ackerman was persuaded to stay by the club's president, who promised to take up the cause of admitting women if Ackerman would not quit. The Rotary president did as promised, and the members eventually passed a resolution amending their constitution to include women. Ackerman recalls that there were several membership applications from women, but the honor of being the first selected went to Wesleyan's own Gena Franklin '71.

While he feels strongly about women not being excluded from professional organizations, Ackerman sees nothing wrong with "a bunch of men or women who want to get together for a social gathering." The twelve members of Macon's all-male Palaver Club meet monthly for dinner and intellectual exchange on a paper presented by one of the members.



**MAY ACKERMAN** lauds her husband's accomplishments at Wesleyan by calling him "a man of integrity, an honest man." The photo shown here, like several on the following pages, is from Ackerman's 1984 inauguration.

Likewise, May is a member of the Macon History Club, an all-female group that meets monthly to discuss a thematic paper presented by one of its members. This year's theme for the History Club is "Women Heads of State," but May will not get to present a paper this year.

A love of music plays an important role in the Ackermans' civic involvement. Bob is past president and a longtime supporter of the Macon Symphony Orchestra. May is a devoted member and past president of the Morning Music Club, a group which has met on Wesleyan's campus since 1912.

Bob's other community commitments have included serving on the board of directors of MARC (Macon Association for Retarded Citizens); serving as a director of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce; and teaching his Sunday school class once a month at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church. Both Ackermans have donated countless pints of blood to the American Red Cross.

One volunteer job to which Bob Ackerman refers jokingly as a biblical calling ("I was a



**JUNIOR LORA TOLLEY** shares the same surname as one of Bob Ackerman's own admired mentors, William Tolley of Syracuse University. Ackerman and Lora have discussed the coincidence. "Bill Tolley was a great role model in higher education for me," Ackerman told her. Other heroes—from Abraham Lincoln to Winston Churchill—are represented in the portraits on Ackerman's Tate office wall.



stranger and they took me in”), came in 1986 when he served as chairman of Macon’s Cherry Blossom Festival. Though the position was a monumental job, Ackerman nonetheless used it to Wesleyan’s advantage. “It was the college’s sesquicentennial, and I never spoke on behalf of Cherry Blossom that I didn’t mention Wesleyan,” Ackerman remembers.

### Of fund-raising and Mohicans

While his strengths are varied, Ackerman admits that one “weakness” he brought to Wesleyan was his lack of experience in fund-raising.

“I came here not knowing if I could do that aspect of the job,” Ackerman recalls, explaining his discussion of the subject with the presidential search committee in 1984. May affirmed his concerns at the time.

Carolyn Mitchell, Ackerman’s assistant for all but three months of his presidency, recalls that her new boss was “untested as a fund-raiser.”

As fate would have it, and for Wesleyan’s good fortune, the new president turned out to be a natural at raising money. His successes speak for themselves: the endowment has grown from \$9 million in 1984 to \$31 million in 1997. But Ackerman credits the excellent staffs in Institutional Advancement, Admissions, and the Dean’s Office for doing their jobs so well that he is freed to raise money.

Ackerman credits his wife, too, with a great deal of help in garnering support for Wesleyan. “She’s much more than an entertainer or hostess,” Ackerman said. “She has established relationships with Wesleyan supporters that might not otherwise have existed.”

Ackerman referred to himself and his wife as akin to “The Last of the Mohicans.” “We’re different from the younger generation [of college administrators] in that Wesleyan got ‘two for one’ with us. . . . May is as devoted to and works as hard for Wesleyan as I do,” he said.

Mitchell agrees wholeheartedly with her boss’s affirmation of what May has done for Wesleyan. “I’ve been amazed at what she has done, on top of her community activities,” Mitchell said. “I fill out surveys and questionnaires that come across my desk, and many of them ask if the president’s spouse is on the college payroll. I answer ‘no,’ but I always want to write in the margin, ‘She should be.’”

In summing up her husband’s work at Wesleyan, May quietly says, “I hope they remember how much we love Wesleyan and how much we want it to continue to be a school of great tradition.”

### Not just horsing around

Members of the Wesleyan community are likely to remember Bob for two events in particular.

In one incident, Ackerman recalls with relish how he came to be at the receiving end of an equestrian joke at the hands of Gena Franklin and chair of the “Tradition and Vision” Alumnae Campaign Ruth Knox ’75.

In recruiting Knox to head the campaign, it occurred to Ackerman to use one of his favorite Civil War anecdotes to sweeten his proposal to Knox.

“I reminded her that President Lincoln, having been unable to find a leader for the troops, told General Grant that if he would win the war, he would hold Grant’s horse. If the alumnae would win the war, so to speak, and meet their campaign goal, I told Ruth I would hold her horse.”

When in 1994 the alumnae exceeded the \$6.15 million goal by more than \$130,000, they celebrated the achievement during the annual meeting of the Alumnae Association (the same meeting at which the Association named May Ackerman an honorary alumna). Ackerman, who had long since forgotten his Civil War challenge, joined Knox onstage to celebrate the completion of the enor-

mously successful campaign. Knox then announced that it was time “for the president to make good on his promise.”

The curtains opened and there stood a beautiful horse. At that point, Ackerman



**“THE PROPER BLEND OF VISIONARY AND PRACTICAL PLANNER”** is how Carolyn Mitchell describes her boss and colleague, recalling his leadership in such incidents as the 1988 Hightower fire.

didn’t need any reminders of his pledge to the alumnae, and he dutifully took the reins. “The audience howled,” Ackerman recalled, “but the horse remained amazingly calm.”

On loan from the Equestrian Center, the horse had been brought up, hooves muffled, on the elevator that usually carries grand pianos.

### It’s a bird...it’s a plane... it’s Acker-man

In May 1988, Carolyn Mitchell saw her boss at his exasperated finest in the midst of a campus calamity. “Bob was on the phone at the time we got the call alerting the president’s office that Hightower Dormitory was on fire,” Mitchell recalls.

Mitchell hurriedly placed a note in Ackerman’s line of sight. “He hung

*Continued on page 17*



Below: The clean white ogee panels on the entryway to the Oval Hall have been highlighted with contrasting shades of peach.

## ACKERMAN & ACADEMICS

Ask Bob Ackerman for a capsule description of his most important contribution to Wesleyan during his presidency, and it comes quickly in one word:

# Focus

Stories by  
Barbara A.  
Brannon



Arriving on campus shortly after a tumultuous period of financial crisis and the threat of merger with a coeducational institution, Ackerman set about a gradual agenda of refining the college's mission and identity. Though the process of strengthening the college's commitment to liberal-arts education, maintaining its preeminence as a women's college, and concentrating its degree programs was not a painless one, it has resulted in a Wesleyan that is well positioned to meet the particular needs of its special market. As one of only eighty-two remaining women's colleges in the nation, Wesleyan has weathered the storms that have brought down dozens of others in the past twenty years. Today, the college's mission is clear: to provide an excellent liberal arts education for women.

"We are now much more intentionally a liberal arts college," says Ackerman "And we're much more intentionally a women's college. I think when I first came here the tendency was to think of us as a college for liberal arts and other purposes too." Sacrificing a number of under-enrolled degree programs over the past decade, the college narrowed its focus to one undergraduate degree, the A.B.—a degree that Wesleyan grants to women only (although the professional nature of the new M.A. program allows it to be open also to men).

The Computer Focus Program, too, was an important development of the Ackerman administration.

Drew University had conceived such an initiative, in which each student would be provided with a personal computer, while Ackerman was still dean there. "They had not yet implemented the program, though, and the idea was on my mind when I came here." It took Wesleyan a few years to put the plan into practice, but when launched in 1989 the Computer Focus Program was the first of its kind in a women's college—and an instant success.

◆ A 1983 self-study for SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) resulted in a lengthy list of conditions and recommendations by the accrediting agency, which President Ackerman moved quickly to address. Ten years later, when the college prepared its next self-study, the response came back completely clean, with no follow-up required. "I guess only those in academia could appreciate the contrast," said Carolyn Mitchell.

"We appointed a faculty committee, guided by [religion professor] John Rakestraw, that guided the decision to do it, the choice of the machine, the equipment," says Ackerman. The

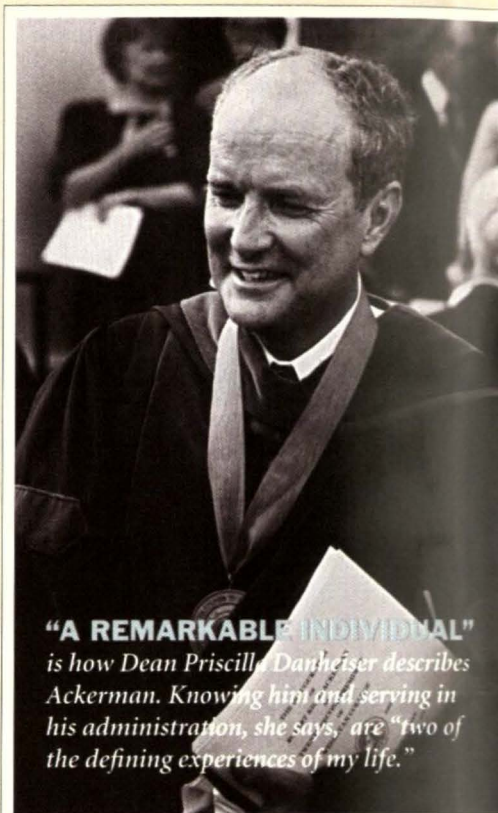
Apple Macintosh provided a user-friendly platform that supported intuitive use of the hardware and software, and faculty quickly learned to adapt computer-based assignments into their syllabi. Today, Wesleyan is still the only school in Georgia to give each student a computer to keep after graduation.

Ackerman worked with deans Kayron McMin, Ethel Cullinan, Carole Brown, and Priscilla Danheiser to build a top-notch faculty whose strengths are focused on teaching. The

college has made strategic hires, and the faculty have been committed to granting tenure only upon true merit. "This faculty, even in its early years, had that kind of determination," says Ackerman. Ackerman still presides at faculty meetings, as he has done since 1984; he has always felt that he should participate fully as a member of the faculty. Cooperation has been excellent, he stresses, having "never

had to take Robert's Rules of Order with me" to a Wesleyan faculty meeting.

As the academic program has taken a bold new turn under Dean Priscilla Danheiser, Ackerman has no doubt that Wesleyan will remain a women's college—or that it will remain a liberal arts college. Like a precision tool, the college stands poised to sharpen the minds of women scholars for generations to come.



**"A REMARKABLE INDIVIDUAL"**  
is how Dean Priscilla Danheiser describes Ackerman. Knowing him and serving in his administration, she says, are "two of the defining experiences of my life."



*What's new in academics*

# REINVENTING GENERAL EDUCATION: *Liberal Learning for the 21st Century*



Learning is not  
attained by  
CHANCE; it must  
be sought for with  
ardor and attended  
to with DILIGENCE.

—ABIGAIL ADAMS

“**W**E REALLY *have* done it,” says Dean Priscilla Danheiser enthusiastically of Wesleyan’s innovative new general education curriculum. “We have managed to develop a truly student-centered, seminar-based curriculum.” Though the faculty are exhausted from the intense months of work, they are also elated and energized at the prospect of teaching the new courses. In less than twelve months, the college has transformed its traditional “core curriculum” of introductory courses and surveys into a program that focuses on the learning *process* and not on content alone.

As the faculty express it, “We believe that in order to succeed in a world that changes rapidly each day, students need much more than a depth and breadth of knowledge—they need to know how to gather, analyze, and judge information. They need to be able to work both collaboratively and independently. And they need to be comfortable examining issues from a variety of perspectives.”

If that sounds like a tall order, look at it this way: it’s a new twist on teaching a student to fish rather than simply feeding her for a day. The Wesleyan faculty believes, too, that students learn best when interested and involved in their own education—so they have designed a wide variety of seminar options for the new general education.

It is a curriculum unlike any other in existence. The customary content-based courses such as, say, Intro to Psychology or Survey of World History, will still be taught, but they

WESLEYAN’S NEW  
GENERAL EDUCATION IS A  
CURRICULUM UNLIKE ANY OTHER  
IN EXISTENCE.

will form part of students’ majors or electives and not their gen-ed requirements. Instead, students will enroll in seminars with such intriguing titles as “Southern Comfort, Southern Soul: Music and Images of the South,” “Women, Culture, and Society,” or “The North American River.”


The general education program begins with a First-Year Seminar the student chooses from a list of more than a dozen interdisciplinary topics. FYS, as it is called, is already a popular and successful feature of the Wesleyan curriculum. Each FYS group bonds during fall semester as its participants polish writing abilities, debate issues, learn computer skills, and even attend a weekend-long mountain retreat. FYS topics are designed to be timely and thought-provoking; last fall’s seminars included “The Busters: Does ‘X’ Mark the Generation?” and “Women’s Voices, Women’s Lives.”

The heart of the new general education program, however, is the Seminar and Interactive Component,

from which students select courses representative of all the divisions of the college and of four categories: text analysis, information processing, laboratory science, and artistic expression. They must also take one course designated as Speech-Intensive, to strengthen their oral expression skills; one Cross-Cultural course; and at least one Workplace Experience (an internship, a collaborative research project, or a student teaching practicum, for instance).

An Integrative Experience rounds out the student’s general education, encouraging her to make connections among the various parts of her course of study. The new curriculum goes into effect with the Class of 2001, who will enter Wesleyan this fall.

A limited class size (no more than twenty students per section) and the physical layout of classrooms will support the new curriculum, as well. Standard desk-chairs are being replaced with tables that allow for more group interaction and serve as a bridge between professor and students as well as between students. Computer applications, class conferences on e-mail, and the Internet will also play an increasingly important role in the educational process.

“We started out on the cutting edge of women’s education more than 160 years ago,” says Danheiser, “and we continue to find ways to stay ahead.” 



## ACKERMAN &amp; THE CAMPUS

Wesleyan will soon celebrate seventy years at the Rivoli campus. Nearly three quarters of a century may represent only a short span in the college's long history, but it's a long time to keep a campus in shape

# Facades, Fixtures, & Furnishings

Stories and photos by Heather S. Carter

Full of blooming splendor, Georgian-style red brick and stately marble, the campus of Wesleyan College may never have looked more beautiful than now. Numerous capital improvements during Bob Ackerman's thirteen-year tenure have added to that beauty, preserving the history of the world's first women's college.

Through a routine maintenance plan initiated by Ackerman, the grounds and buildings that most alumnae hold dear to their hearts have been preserved and meticulously cared for, allowing the campus to grow gracefully.

"Anybody coming back here would feel right at home," said Frances Van Horn '53, director of campus and community events for ten years and an employee of Wesleyan for twenty-seven years. "The campus is just beautiful. It looks well-kept, and there has been more attention to detail. That really makes a difference," she said.

The college spends about \$150,000 a year on building maintenance alone, and maintaining the grounds of the 200-acre campus is costly. But even during times when cash flow was limited, Ackerman insisted that Wesleyan not skimp on maintenance. "The Trustees have understood that deferred maintenance is not a good policy in the long run," he said. "I am really very proud of that."

Renovation and construction projects have been accomplished in great numbers during Ackerman's years. Among these projects are the \$1.5 million Mathews Athletic

Center, air-conditioning installation in Banks, Jones, Wortham, and Persons Residence Halls, the refurbishment of Anderson Dining Hall, the renovation of Taylor Hall, extensive improvements to the Murphey Art Building, and the creation of the Grassmann-Porter Studio Theatre in the Porter Fine Arts Building.

Willet Memorial Library has been waterproofed and grants have been secured to computerize its card catalog. Inside Willet, the Hambright Language Library has been built.

Gena Franklin, vice president for Institutional Advancement, says Ackerman was "precisely the right president for Wesleyan at the right time." Ackerman and Franklin have proven to be a successful fund-raising team, which has contributed to raising millions of dollars for capital improvements on campus.

The preservation of the campus is important not only to faculty, staff, and students, who work and live here, but to other residents of Macon as well. "The community notices every day what's happening at Wesleyan College," Van Horn said. "Those who drive by every day call to ask about things they notice."

Several community groups rent Wesleyan's meeting and performance halls for events. The Morning Music Club, a group that celebrates a love and appreciation of music, has met at Wesleyan since 1912. And the Macon Symphony Orchestra has conducted its concerts and daily business in the Porter Fine Arts Building since 1976.

"The Macon community is very impressed with our facilities," Van Horn said. "They love to have Sunday school meetings, workshops and dinners in the Manget Dining Room. They feel some ownership to Wesleyan, and they take pride in our campus."

"I think that's what Dr. Ackerman wants," she said. "He wants us all to be proud of Wesleyan."

Tapestry pillows complement the colors of the Mural Room and accentuate the rich, vibrant hues of the original Athos Menaboni murals for which the room is named.



## THE LARGEST CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

undertaken during the Ackerman years is the Mathews Athletic Center. Ground was broken in 1995, with Ruth Knox, George Mathews, and Ackerman joining forces, above; Phase I was completed earlier this year.



The Oval Hall of the Candler Alumnae Center sparkles this spring like never before, thanks to the generosity of the Alumnae Association. Recent improvements to campus include extensive refurbishments of the Oval Hall and the Mural Room inside the Candler Alumnae Center, as well as the Burden Parlor and the lobby of the Olive Swann Porter Building.

Painters worked for a month, using sixty-five gallons of paint on the Oval Hall's 25-foot-tall walls and massive ceiling. The 4,055-square-foot room's tall triple-sash windows were repainted in their previous natural white color. The walls kept their original peach hues and white accents, but this time painters used different shades to highlight the ornate mill-work of the room as well.

The original custom-made peach-striped silk valances were rehung, but the drapery panels and metal venetian blinds were not. Alumnae Director Cathy Coxe Snow '71 decided to keep the windows open. "This treatment adds to the openness of the room," Snow says. "We needed more light in the space and we wanted a more updated look. Now you can really see the beauty of the campus through these windows."

The Oval Hall was transformed from reading room to ballroom in 1970, a few years after Willet Memorial Library was built. Now, the Oval Hall is primarily used for large gatherings, recitals, and receptions—and especially for alumnae functions.

Presented to the College by the late Judge John Slaughter Candler of Atlanta in memory of his parents, the Candler Alumnae Center, with its classic Greek Revival design and graceful entry stairs, is one of the most picturesque buildings on the Wesleyan campus. "Many in the Macon community feel that the Oval Hall is one of the most elegant rooms in the city," says Snow.

The Alumnae Association also

refurbished the Candler Center's Mural Room. Located on the first floor of the building, the Mural Room houses the college's two original Athos Menaboni murals. The antique furniture in the room was reupholstered to complement the contemporary colors in the room's original Chinese silk draperies, which were custom-made by Browne Decorating of Atlanta in 1970. Browne designed draperies for the entire Candler Building when it was converted from library to Alumnae Center and

### LONG HOURS OF WORK

went into the renovation of the Oval Hall, completed during a narrow "window of opportunity" between the end of Christmas festivities and preparations for Alumnae Weekend.



*What's new on*

# The Campus

office building. "We decided to work around the draperies," Snow said. "They are as much a part of the Mural Room as the Menaboni paintings—and it is far too costly to reproduce window treatments like these today." Deep purple, beige, peach, and light green colors in the tapestry and brocade fabrics chosen for the room's sofa and chairs enhance the beauty of the drapes and the murals, one of which depicts Wesleyan in its early years.

Jamie Tyson Dodd '35 of Macon donated two beautiful solid brass Stiffel lamps for the refurbishment project. The lamps flank the room's Queen Anne-style camel-back sofa. Other capital improvements recently completed include refurbishing sofas in the Burden Parlor and updating lighting fixtures in the Olive Swann Porter Lobby. 



**ATHOS MENABONI'S ORIGINAL OIL**, "Wesleyan College, Macon, Georgia: The Pioneer College for Women, A.D. 1836," is one of a pair of paintings hanging in the Mural Room of the Candler Alumnae Center.



## ACKERMAN &amp; THE ARTS

*Wesleyan has long had a great reputation for its arts programs, back to the days of the Conservatory and earlier. That reputation continues to grow in the 1990s*



The Oval Hall abounds in neoclassical detail, such as this laurel-swing frieze with dentil trim that frames the room's eight niches.

## Fine Arts

Stories by  
Heather S. Carter

**W**esleyan College's commitment to the arts has not wavered under Bob Ackerman's leadership over the past thirteen years.

Two new programs, MidSummer Macon and the Center For The Arts, have brought Macon residents young and old to campus for classes and lessons in theater, music, dance, writing, and art. Three community arts groups, the Morning Music Club, the Macon Symphony Orchestra, and the Macon Concert Association, call Wesleyan their home. And enrollment in arts programs is up.

Students intending to major or minor in music now number thirty—the highest in years, says Jeanette Loflin Shackelford '61, chair of the music department.

Narrowing the focus of the music, art and theater programs has resulted in higher enrollment. Though the move was unpopular in the beginning, faculty have adjusted to a liberal arts focus. "It was the thing to do at the time for many reasons. We need to prepare students in the best way possible, and the liberal arts focus allows us to do that," Shackelford says. Art Professor Libby Bailey finds that the move makes the art program "more focused—more cohesive."

Adding graphic design classes and a new computer lab in the Murphey Art Building has helped train

Wesleyan students entering the work force in graphic design. Students are drawn to Wesleyan for its small faculty/student ratio. "Personal instruction and studio assistance makes a real difference in our field," Bailey says. "They don't get that at the larger institutions. We have fantastic facilities."

Wesleyan's facilities are frequently used by three community music groups—Macon Symphony Orchestra, which has its offices in the Porter Fine Arts Building and performs in Porter Auditorium; the Morning Music Club, which meets monthly in the Benson Room; and the Macon Concert Association, which brings world-renowned artists in concert to the Porter Auditorium stage.

"Wesleyan really benefits from having these groups here,"

says music professor Fletcher Anderson. MSO and MCA provide Wesleyan students with free tickets to their events, which cost the general public as much as \$22 per concert.

The Morning Music Club funded in part the renovation of the Hightower Piano in the Benson Room, and the college recently renovated the seventy-year-old Goodwyn-Candler Organ in Porter Auditorium through the generosity of Elsie Lowden Hambricht '34. Foundation grants allowed the creation of the Grassmann-Porter Studio Theatre (black-box theater) performance space.

One of the largest groups to use the campus each year is MidSummer Macon, which holds day camps and residential camps for people of all ages who want to study music, theater, art, dance, or creative writing.

MidSummer Macon was originally a struggling community-driven organization that was to include summer arts classes on the campuses of Mercer University and Macon College as well as Wesleyan.

But in 1988, when the program needed new direction, Ackerman, who served on the MidSummer Macon Board of Directors, suggested that the event be run exclusively at Wesleyan. "The amazing thing is that Bob Ackerman saw what needed to be done, and he had a vision for this," says Shackelford, who returned to



**FOR ACKERMAN'S INAUGURATION** in October 1984, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Robert Shaw presented a celebration concert in Porter Auditorium.

Wesleyan to serve as executive director of MidSummer Macon in 1988. The Center For The Arts was established to teach classes throughout the year after Shackelford identified a need for the program. Both programs have grown over the years. Recently, MidSummer Macon attendance reached an all-time high of about 450 students.

Shackelford says the campus' success with the arts is due in large part to Ackerman's support. "He's always attending programs. He has a genuine interest in our programs. He's constantly asking me what we need in music — what could make it better," she said. "He has been a strong advocate for what we are trying to accomplish."



Renowned performer Nadine Cheek Jurgensen '79 returned to her alma mater for a week as artist-in-residence last February but will soon return for a more permanent stay. This fall, Jurgensen will be named the College's first Heyward Chair in Music.

"Having Nadine Cheek Jurgensen here creates a kind of excitement that

is good for our program," said Jeanette Shackelford, chair of the Music Department.

During her week in residen-

cy at Wesleyan, Jurgensen gave individual voice lessons for all voice majors, presented a master class in voice, and rehearsed the choral ensembles. In addition, she gave a concert with music professor Edward Eikner on March 2.

"I think she inspires students to work hard. She'll do a wonderful job of recruiting and retaining students. She is very much in tune with Wesleyan College, and her professional background is outstanding," Shackelford said.

In addition to her university teaching experience, Jurgensen has

performed with many prestigious groups over the years, including the Cincinnati Opera Chorus, the Center Civic Opera in Covington, Kentucky, and Mad Anthony Opera Company in Hamilton, Ohio. She has played the lead role in "Carmen" at the Theatrehof in Humbach, Germany. In May 1994, she premiered "Falling" by Martin Bresnick with the Macon Symphony Orchestra.

## What's new in Arts & Cultural Events

Her music education includes master classes taught by famous musicians such as Florence Kopleff, Martin Katz, John Wustman, Anna Kaskas, and Dalton Baldwin. Her vocal teachers over the years include Karl Resnik of the Cincinnati Conservatory, Lili Chookasian of the Yale Conservatory, Connecticut; Sylvia Stone of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Norman McLean, formerly of Wesleyan. In addition to the bachelor of music she holds from Wesleyan, Jurgensen holds two master of music degrees—one in voice from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music,

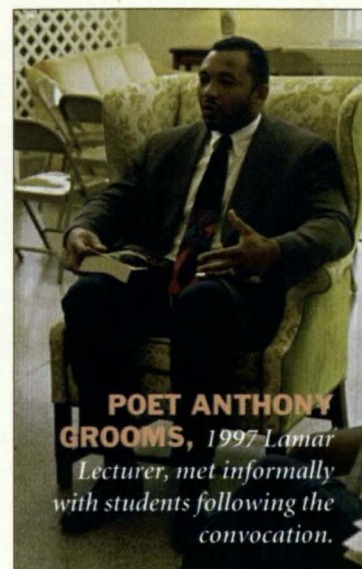
and another in choral conducting from Yale University.

Other recent cultural events at Wesleyan:

- "Step on a Crack" was performed by the Wesleyan Theatre in Porter Auditorium January 23–25. Written by Susan Zeder, the play is about step families and coming to terms with stepparents. Wesleyan's production was a crowd-pleaser for all ages.

- The Lamar Lecture Series presented Atlanta poet and story-writer Anthony Grooms March 6. Author of *Ice Poems* and *Trouble No More*,

*Continued on page 23*



**POET ANTHONY GROOMS, 1997 Lamar**  
Lecturer, met informally with students following the convocation.



Left to right: Shackelford, Eikner, Jurgensen



**AN ALL-STAR ENSEMBLE** of the heads of major American music conservatories was hosted in March by Neva Langley Fickling '55 and husband Bill. For the group's twenty-fourth annual meeting, Fickling and Wesleyan music professor Edward Eikner performed a program of piano selections. Shown here at the Ficklings' home, from left: Bernard Dobroski, dean of the Northwestern University School of Music; Karen Wolff, dean of the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music; Robert Blocker, dean of the Yale University School of Music; Neva Fickling; Larry Livingston, director of the University of Southern California School of Music; Bill Fickling; Mrs. James Undercofler, wife of the director of the Eastman School of Music; Edward Eikner; Gary Graffman, director of the Curtis Institute; James Scott, associate dean of the Indiana University School of Music; and Mrs. Scott. Not pictured is Dean Paul Boylan of the University of Michigan.



## ACKERMAN &amp; DEVELOPMENT

*Increasing a college's endowment 350% within a dozen years is no common achievement. But that's what Ackerman has led the dedicated members of the Wesleyan community to do*

# Finances



A pair of Meissen vases (ca. 1780–1800)—a gift from the Class of 1948—adorns the niches in the Oval Hall.

**Stories by Barbara A. Brannon**

When Bob Ackerman met with the Wesleyan presidential search committee in 1983, he was already a seasoned scholar, professor, and administrator. But he wasn't sure about his skills in development. As he nears retirement, Wesleyan's \$31 million endowment is only one testament to his success in garnering friends and funds for the college.

Despite having steered the college through some rough years on a shoestring, Ackerman realizes that growth does require an investment. "This kind of operation is extravagant, just by definition, and anyone who doesn't understand that has missed the boat. What we are doing, educating young women in this close community of scholars for four years, is an extravagant thing," he says. Alumnae who have benefited from a Wesleyan education know what he means.

And times were indeed tough, when Ackerman arrived. "There was a real financial strain," says Ackerman. "The faculty were paid terribly. They cut timber on the grounds to pay the bills—something we haven't done since. But the board was good and patient through the difficulties." Progress was made despite budgetary constraints. "We increased faculty salaries and we made improvements to the buildings when we really could not afford to," explains Ackerman.

Most of the expenditures were done on a cash basis, however, requiring the college to borrow almost no money. Successful fund-raising has made the difference. The annual fund has almost doubled from its level when Ackerman first came, to some \$800,000 now. Ackerman gives a great deal of credit to the experience of Don Welch, and his successor, Gena Franklin. "The college moved in some new directions at that stage," says Ackerman. "The Society for the 21st Century, for

instance, set a goal of one hundred members. We have more than twice that number now. It's a wonderful organization, and it is going to be

wonderful for the future of the college."

Though finances have been a year-to-year strain throughout Ackerman's administration, and "wrestling with the annual budget has been wearing," the President feels that Wesleyan has passed the turning point. With the college fiscally fit, says Ackerman, and plans for more extensive fund-raising firmly in place, Wesleyan should move into an era of real stability and accomplishment.



**"OUR EXPECTATIONS** that Bob Ackerman would do an excellent job have been more than fulfilled," says Frank Jones, chair of the Board of Trustees in 1983 when the college elected Ackerman president. "Wesleyan is a much stronger institution today—academically, financially, and otherwise—as a result of his leadership and vision."



## Class Notes

*It's been a busy spring on the Wesleyan campus—and circumstances beyond our control have delayed the publication of this issue past Alumnae Weekend. We apologize, and beg your understanding. The Class Notes had already been edited in March, so we have left the many references to the "upcoming" Alumnae Weekend. You will soon receive a much fuller issue with class notes from the 1997 Alumnae Weekend!*

### 1910s

When Myrtle Taliaferro Rankin '16 celebrated her 102nd birthday in December, the event was written up in the *Macon Telegraph*. "Miss Myrtle" graduated from Wesleyan with a degree in music and immediately put her education to use. During World War I, she would ride to Camp Wheeler in the sidecar of a motorcycle to play the piano for soldiers. During World War II, she worked in a fuse plant—she volunteered to work the night shift so others could be at home with their families, since her own children were grown. Through the years, she was active at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church and served as a volunteer for the Blood Bank and The Red Cross. She is the widow of Goodwin Rankin and the mother of four children.

Congratulations to Mary Frank McClure Chandler '19, who celebrated her 100th birthday on April 4! Until last October, when she fell and fractured a hip, she maintained her own home and was quite independent. "Frankie" now resides at Greene-Point Nursing Home in Union Point, Georgia. The First United Methodist Church in Greensboro, Georgia, where she has always been an active member, has named its circle for young women in her honor. In 1995, the church declared its homecoming service "Frankie Chandler Day." Her daughter, Jane C. Rhodes '49, writes that Wesleyan has always been "near and dear" to her mother's heart.

### 1920s

Thelma Maxwell Johnson '20 of Elberton, Georgia, was featured on her ninety-eighth birthday in an article in the *Elberton Examiner*. She recounted stories of life in Elbert County, where she has lived all her life, including the bustling days when farmers sold their cotton to the highest bidder on the muddy downtown square.

Aurelia Cooper Evans '24 of Perry, Georgia, writes that Edwina Hall Beall '53 was guest speaker at the annual American History Luncheon held by the General Daniel Stewart

Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Perry. Mrs. Beall is Vice Regent of the Georgia Society DAR. Grace Harris Cook '74 was hostess. Women from DAR chapters all over Middle Georgia attended.

Congratulations to Leila Autrey Lewis Randall '25 of League City, Texas, who celebrated her ninety-fourth birthday on January 16. Autrey still talks about her days at Wesleyan. Her sisters, Gladys and Lucille, also graduated from the college.

Cornelia Shiver '25 of Americus, Georgia, was featured in the *Americus Times Recorder* for her lifetime contributions to her community. Cornelia earned a master's degree from Northwestern University in Chicago after graduating from Wesleyan in 1925. She did graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley;

**CALLING ALL CLASSMATES:** Beth Dilworth Beaver and Jennifer Houser Chapin telephone members of the Class of 1982 at the January Alumnae Weekend House Party, where alumnae from all reunion classes were reminded to plan ahead for Alumnae Weekend.



Duke University; and the University of Michigan. An educator for forty-eight years, Cornelia Shiver taught at Wesleyan for twenty-one years. She has also traveled to Europe eleven times, to the Far East (including Taiwan, China, Fiji, and Japan), and to Hawaii. In addition to traveling, she volunteers at Sumter Regional Hospital, First United Methodist Church, and many other organizations.

Mary Lou Reynolds Sorey '28 celebrated her ninetieth birthday on January 15, 1997. Her daughter, Emelyn Arnold '64, gave a lovely seated dinner party in her Chastain Park home in Atlanta. Emelyn's friend and classmate, Helen Cousar Wells '64, assisted with plans for the party. Mary Lou has lived at the Renaissance

in Atlanta for the past three years. She enjoys church, bridge, many social activities, and a host of good friends at the Renaissance. Her beautiful white cat, "Princess," is a constant companion.

### 1930s

Lillian Pafford Tate '32 of Mobile, Alabama, says that her two sons have been a blessing to her and her husband. Son Bill has moved back home to help care for his parents. Son Jim's track team broke a national record by winning fourteen state titles in succession.

Eunice Brinson Turner '33 and her husband live in Pelham, Georgia, where they celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on January 31. Congratulations!

Margaret Munroe Thrower '35 of Atlanta writes that Mary Jenkins Winders '35 will be moving back to the United States after living in London. While abroad, Mary has kept in touch with many of her Wesleyan friends.

Mary Dozier '35 writes that she moved in July to a villa at Magnolia Manor in Macon and loves it and "the lovely people."

From Clinton, New York, Hazel Tabor Krol '35 writes fondly of her days at Wesleyan: "So many, many years ago I lived at Wesleyan, and as I recall the people and things that happened when I was so very, very young, I bless Wesleyan for those memories."

From Anniston, Alabama, Marguerite Johnston White '38 writes that she had a total knee replacement in January. She uses a cane but hopes that with exercise she will be without it for her sixtieth reunion in 1998.

### 1940s

Christine Rountree Anderson '41 of Atlanta writes to suggest that another Conservatory Reunion be put on the agenda before the memories are completely forgotten. How about it, Conservatory girls?

Alice Burrowes Ritter '42 writes that she is certainly looking forward to Alumnae Weekend at Wesleyan in April after having spent winter in her home in Rochester, New York.

Emily Hearn Webb '42 and husband Jim were treated to a surprise joint birthday luncheon hosted by their children, Larry and Sharon, in Atlanta. Twenty-three people attended, including guests from as far away as Boston, Massachusetts, and Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. The Webbs were completely surprised, especially to see daughter Sharon, who flew in from Boston.



Sara Wright Stowe '44 of Lake Wylie, South Carolina, and husband Ben celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at Myrtle Beach with their children and grandchildren.

Florence "Flippy" Sitton Denton '45 of Macon is proud to announce the birth of a great-grandson, Douglas Brice Fincher IV, who was born September 17, 1996.

Turner M. Gaughf '45 of Macon was honored with the distinguished Lifetime Service Award at the Annual Georgia Music Educator's Association Conference in Savannah. Turner retired from the Bibb County Public School System after six years as director of music for the county, and more than forty years as a music educator in Georgia. He has also been presented an award for his forty years of service as choir director at First Street United Methodist Church. He received a master's degree from Mercer University and a doctorate in education from Georgia State University in 1982.

Joyce Daniel Mann '46 and her husband, Dr. David Mann, celebrated fifty years of marriage in October 1996. They were honored with a reception given by their children, at Riverside United Methodist Church.

A memorial celebration of the life of Rick Blanchard, son of Anne Carlton Blanchard '47, will be held in Davis, California in April. A diving accident in 1967 had left Rick quadriplegic for the past twenty-nine years. During that time he graduated magna cum laude from the University of Central Florida and received a master of fine arts degree from the California Institute of the Arts in Los Angeles. An artist in music, he also became a computer consultant. He moved to Davis, California, in 1983 and was active in the community and admired for his courage and empathy toward others. Friends are also planning a retrospective of his work at the Veterans Memorial (see *Sympathy*).

Sally Bowen '47 was named Citizen of the Year for Newnan, Georgia.

Betsy Chipman Kaplan '47 and '48 of Miami, Florida, has been re-elected to a third four-year term on the Dade County School Board.

Elizabeth Hean Stone '48 of New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, had lunch in New York with Lois Goldman Cowan '45 in December. Afterwards, she toured the Metropolitan Museum. Elizabeth is busy planning the wedding of her daughter Lisa, who has joined the family law firm.

Pauline "Polly" Phelps Deck '48 of Charlottesville, Virginia, represented Wesleyan College at the April 1997 presidential inauguration of Elisabeth Muhlenfeld, ninth president of Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, Virginia.

Maconite Cordelia "Corky" Dessau Holliday '48 is proud to announce the birth of her first grandchild, Rebecca Ann Holliday, born January 6, 1997, to Riley Dessau and Sue White Holliday of Smyrna, Georgia.

The dean of the chapel at Duke University calls Mary McCowen Parkerson '48 Duke Chapel's "Seven Million Dollar Woman." As director of development and administration, Mary has raised approximately \$7 million in contributions and pledges, enabling Duke Chapel to have a more vital and secure future. He writes that Mary's "lively, caring, warmth and cheerful smile have endeared Mary to our hearts. She has made the Chapel a place of gracious hospitality...her vibrant Christian witness shines through all that she does." At the end of June, Mary will retire with a record of great accomplishment.

Emmie Carlton Johnson '49 of Oxford, Georgia, and her family helped celebrate the expansion and new building of the Open Door Community House in Columbus, Georgia, where her son, Tom Johnson, Jr., is executive director. The project was featured in the *Wesleyan Christian Advocate* in January.

If you are trying to correspond with Betty Faye Holt Lawton '49, the address in the new Alumnae Directory is incorrect. She is still at 3219 Washington Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19802-2622, waiting for her house to sell. She is anxious to sell the house so she can move near her children and grandchildren and...Lake Winnepesaukee (great fishing and winter sports)!

Jerrye Griffeth Short '49 of Stone Mountain, Georgia, has been crowned Ms. Senior Georgia. Her duties will include traveling across the state promoting the benefits of active lifestyles for seniors. She was also voted Miss Congeniality by her peers. Jerrye retired from teaching school after thirty-two years and keeps busy with volunteer work at DeKalb Medical Center, playing bridge, and doing church work. She received a master's degree from Mercer University, and was voted Teacher of the Year in 1986 at G. B. Peterson Elementary School.

Martha Barrett Woodard '49 resides in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she works at Discovery Place, a science museum for young children. Traveling frequently throughout the United States and Canada, she also regularly visits Athens, Georgia, to see her three grandsons. Martha would like to hear more news from Conservatory "girls and boys" and is looking forward to her fiftieth reunion in 1999.

## 1950s

"I'm having a great time playing bass fiddle in the country music band 'The Retirees' and traveling the nursing home circuit," writes Louise Cochran Mayfield '50 of Clarkesville, Tennessee. The only female and youngest member in the band at age 69, Louise takes a lot of ribbing. The band's banjo player is 83.

Daisy Weathers Boswell '51 of Atlanta and her husband vacationed in England in March, where they visited their son and his wife and their three little grandsons. The Boswells also

visited points of interest over a six-week period.

Winnie Clements Begin '52 of Marietta, Georgia, is proud of her daughter, Dr. Eileen Begin '80 of Laurel, Maryland, who completed her residency in anesthesiology at Johns Hopkins and now practices in Washington, D.C. Winnie is looking forward to seeing the Conservatory girls at her forty-fifth reunion in April.

Betty Cox Hood '52 of Killen, Alabama, and her husband are enjoying retirement. They spend as much time as they can "dangling their feet in the Tennessee River" and visiting the beach in Destin, Florida. They are very proud of their four grandchildren.

Retired in September after working twenty years for her brother, Peggy Stiles McKown '52 of East Ridge, Tennessee, is enjoying traveling. She just returned from San Diego, California, where she visited her oldest son and his family. She also announces the birth of her eighth grandchild, born in August 1996. Peggy is sorry to have to miss her forty-fifth class reunion due to a family wedding, but says hello to all of her classmates.

Jean Armstrong Smith '52 of Atlanta and her husband, Robert, are both retired and spend a lot of time traveling. Jean keeps in touch with Wesleyan classmates Nancy Lewis Montet, Ann Armistead Bearse, Martha Davis Bauman, Peggy Throughman Callahan, Betty Banks Deal, and Ann Hawkins Brosnan, and hopes to see them all at their reunion in April.

In Savannah, retired registered nurse Joan Pritchard Smith '53 stays busy working with the homeless and caring for her ninety-one-year-old mother. Joan enjoys traveling in her RV. She also enjoys visiting her children in Germany and the Hague in the Netherlands. She gives "praise to God for His many blessings."

Congratulations to Betty Bishop Elliott '53 and her new husband, Don, who were married in the Chapel of First United Methodist Church in Coral Gables, Florida. Betty's son, Barco Davidson, gave the bride away. Grandsons Justin, 14, and Reid, 11, served as ushers, and granddaughter Stephanie, 8, was ring bearer. Family and friends attended the ceremony and dinner which followed. The bride and groom honeymooned in Bermuda (see *Marriages*).

Caroline Eagerton Upperco '53 and husband Jesse will celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary in June. They have lived in Arlington, Virginia, for most of those years. Both are retired, Joan from teaching and Jesse from the U.S. Geological Survey. They enjoy church, volunteer work, travel (via Elderhostel) and keeping up with friends. They have two children, Ann and Don. Don and his wife, Trish, and their two children live in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he is principal of James Munroe High School. Ann, husband Dave, and their two children live in Wilson, North Carolina. Caroline is looking forward to her forty-fifth reunion in 1998.



Lloyd Young Flanders '56 of Darien, Georgia, spent nine days in Asia and attended four international Rotary Club meetings in Singapore, Hong Kong, Bali, and Bangkok. Lloyd exclaims that she "wouldn't have missed it for the world!"

Mary Hodge Malone '57 of Thomasville, Georgia, writes that she and Ginny Dodd Lane '57 of Tallahassee, Florida, are looking forward to Alumnae Weekend in April. They hope that Christine Little Greene '57 from Cartersville, Georgia, will be able to join them also. Mary and her husband, a former pediatrician, are both retired. They have six grandchildren and another on the way by adoption.

From Roswell, Georgia, Nancy McCook Spence '58 writes that her work as director of children's ministries at Roswell United Methodist Church

In Fort Wayne, Indiana, Sarah Neva Calhoun Savage '62 is still teaching elementary art and high school art history at Canterbury School. Last year she enjoyed taking a group of students to France. Sarah's husband, Bob, teaches English and humanities at Indiana Tech. Her older son, Tom, is married, lives in Palo Alto, California, and is a lawyer. Her younger son, Charlie, is a junior majoring in English at Harvard.

Barbara Abercrombie '64 of Douglas, Georgia, proudly reports the birth of her first grandchild, William Drew Abercrombie, son of her older son, Ed, and his wife. Her younger son, Alan, will marry in March. Barbara is also delighted to have some girls in the family!

"Thanks a million to Lou Beller '64 of Staten Island, New York, for the fine job she does in maintaining the '64 Green Knight Directory," writes classmate Lynne Godwin Sikes '64. At home in Glennville, Georgia, Lynne is teaching first grade again and looks forward to becoming a grandmother this year.

Jo Tolmie Denmark '66 and her husband, Phillip, reside in Windermere, Florida, where Jo is a guidance counselor at

Lakeview Middle School in Winter Garden. She received her master's degree in counseling in 1993. Jo is president-elect of the Orange County Counseling Association, from which she received the President's Spirit Award for 1996-97. She is a soloist for the annual AIDS benefit concert sponsored by St. Luke United Methodist Church, the only concert of its kind in Orlando.

Barbara Sneden Exum '66 of Juliette, Georgia, has a new son-in-law. Barbara's daughter, Winsler, was married in November to James Armstrong, Jr.

"I am a special education and music teacher at Gracewood State School and Hospital and will retire from the facility next year after thirty years of teaching," writes Eleanor Smith Hamilton '67 of Hephzibah, Georgia. Eleanor's husband, John, is a retired psychologist. Her plans for retirement include writing and music creativity. She is hoping to get published. Eleanor wishes the Golden Hearts a Happy

Thirtieth!

Beth Rogero Bowen '68 was recently elected chairman of the St. John's County Recreation Advisory Board. She also serves as vice-chairman of the Anastasia Mosquito Control Board in St. Augustine, Florida, where she resides.

Maconite Mary Jo Fincher Plowden's ('68) daughter, Caroline O'Neal Plowden, will attend the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. Caroline received the Outstanding Senior Award for Lovett College and graduated magna cum laude from Rice University.

The daughters of Martha Pafford Schindhelm '68 of Bridgewater, Connecticut, have been busy. Joanna graduated in May 1996 from Denison University and is working for an advertising agency not far from her mother's; Jessica is spending her junior year at Mount Holyoke College on an exchange program and will return to Bowdoin College for her senior year. Martha writes that she can't wait for her thirtieth reunion to visit with her classmates from the Class of '68.

## 1970s

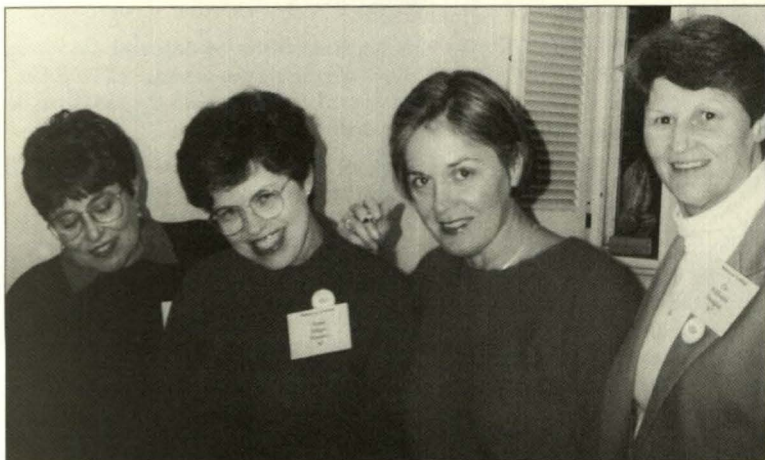
In Washington, D.C., Kasse Andrews-Weller '72 is curator of the Air Force Art Collection, an 8,000-piece worldwide collection. She is a major in the Air Force Reserve and is also a volunteer in the First Lady's office at the White House. Kasse was in charge of the inaugural ball at the Air Space Museum. Recently, she and former roommate M.C. Collins O'Kelley '72 of Snellville, Georgia, met in the Capitol for lunch. They also toured the National Archives and visited the National Gallery. Both are looking forward to Alumnae Weekend.

Virginia R. Slack '73 of Atlanta started her eleventh tax season with H&R Block, working in the Buckhead Premium Office. As a "professional volunteer," Ginny serves the American Red Cross, the Atlanta History Center, and several environmental groups, as well as her church.

After receiving a master's degree in early childhood education from Piedmont College in May 1996, Malvina Beal Moffett '74 of Lula, Georgia, is teaching art at Alpine Psycho-education Programs. She works with students ages four to twenty-two who are severely emotionally and behaviorally disturbed.

Pam Jackson Veader '74 lives in Bethlehem, Georgia, where she has been an agent with State Farm Insurance Company for ten years. Her sons, Jim and Shawn, are both in college.

Elizabeth "Liz" O'Donnell Stewart '76 and her husband, Stan, enjoy living in Indian Springs, Ohio, in the southwestern part of the state. They have two sons: Brian, who will attend Flagler College next year, and Adam, a freshman in high school. Liz was delighted to read in the latest edition of *Wesleyan College News* about Wesleyan's website on the Internet. She



**JOIN US FOR A GREAT 30TH REUNION:** *From left, Golden Hearts Kasey Carneal Phillips, Anne Hilger Manley, Helen Neal Kleiber, and Flo Williams Douglas make plans at the January Alumnae Weekend House Party for the Class of '67 Reunion.*

continues to be rewarding and challenging. Using technology (computers with CD-ROMs) as a teaching tool in Sunday School is her latest challenge. Nancy's first grandchild, Serena Nicole Spence, is nine months old, and, according to grandmother, is "such a joy!"

## 1960s

Deanna Henderson Rice '60 of St. Petersburg, Florida, says she really enjoyed the excellent letter from Sylvia Jean Clark '60, their class liaison.

Congratulations to Marybelle Proctor Menzel '62 of Littleton, Colorado, on the birth of her two grandchildren, Robert Jack Menzel (son of Blake and Melinda of Nashville, Tennessee) and Bryn Reynolds Menzel (daughter of John and Stephanie of Denver, Colorado). Marybelle's youngest son, Craig Evan Menzel, will graduate from the University of Florida in May.



hopes the site will grow into an effective communication tool for Wesleyan alumnae.

**Kimberly Richards Denmark '78** and her four children, Christina, 14; Lissa, 11; David, 9; and Celeste, 8, will move soon from Lilburn, Georgia, to North Carolina where her husband, Michael, has accepted a new job. She has loved working in the registrar's office at DeKalb College.

**Sara Jane Overstreet '78** resides in Griffin, Georgia, and is employed by the Crossroads Psychoeducational Program and the Brawner Behavioral Healthcare System. She is a single parent for her two children, Graceann, 12, and Alexander, 10.

**Roswell, Georgia, resident Cathy Bradach Rockoff '78** writes that daughter Michele is playing junior varsity soccer for Roswell High School and daughter Deb is learning to drive. (She says to feel free to send her advice!)

**Mezzo soprano Nadine Cheek Jurgensen '79** of Springfield, Illinois, and pianist Edward Eikner, Wesleyan's Comer Professor of Fine Arts, performed in the Benson Room at the Candler Alumnae Center on March 2. The concert was sponsored by the Wesleyan College Music Department—whose faculty Nadine will be joining in the fall (see story, page 11).

## 1980s

**Dr. Valerie E. Cowart '80** enjoyed her travels on the rocky coast of Maine and the Green mountains of Vermont. She also volunteers for the American Brain Tumor Association. She sadly reports the death of her mother and father within weeks of one another (see *Sympathy*).

In Bradenton, Florida, **Dr. Tina Martinez Barrios '82** is a technology coordinator at Manatee High School. Her school is partially networked, is setting up a web server, and has network access to the internet using an ISDN router. Tina was excited about finding Wesleyan's home page on the Internet and sends congratulations to those involved in constructing Wesleyan's website.

Maconite **Mary "Lisa" Boyer '83** is the new assistant dean and registrar **Pat Hardeman '68** at Wesleyan. She worked previously in the Willet Library in the area of acquisitions.

Congratulations to **Loretta L. Pinkston '84** who was named city attorney for Macon. Her first day on the job was February 3, 1997. Loretta has served also on the Wesleyan Alumnae Board of Managers as treasurer for the past six years.

**Debbie McGee Ambrose '84** and her husband, Larry, reside in Lakeland, Florida. Debbie has started a Pampered Chef business. She gives demonstrative kitchen shows to illustrate her products, which include bakeware, cookware, and kitchen utensils.

Members of the Class of 1986, **Dana Grinstead Tanner** of Hampton Cove, Alabama; **Dawn Miller Sturbaum** of Lawrenceville, Georgia; and **Dana Flanders Grinstead** of Marietta, Georgia, spent New Year's Eve at the home of classmate **Vonda Brokopp Klein**, who lives in Mableton, Georgia.

In Macon, **Lynn Lasseter Heard '87** is the new president of the Board of Directors for the Macon-Bibb County Convention and Visitors Bureau. She began her career in the hospitality industry at the Bureau and is presently general manager at the Residence Inn in Macon. Lynn is also president of the Macon Wesleyan Alumnae Club. Lynn's former Wesleyan alumnae link, **Corky Dessau Holliday '48**, writes that she is proud of Lynn and has enjoyed keeping up with Lynn's business career throughout the years.

**Mary Frances Baugh Stewart '87** resides in Gray, Georgia, where she is a math teacher at Jones County High School. She has two children, Whitney and Ryan.

Besides being a busy mom, **Wyanne Coker Thompson '87** of Alpharetta, Georgia, has expanded her business, Lavender Blue Designs, from mail-order to two retail locations in Atlanta. (See also *Family Additions and Births*.)

**Gina Hogan McLean '89** of Macon has been nominated and accepted in the Women's Executive Leadership Program, a federal government program designed to provide leadership skills to potential female managers. Gina has been working in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management as a computer specialist since graduation from Wesleyan. She received her master's degree in Management Information Systems from Georgia College in 1994. Gina was one of only three women selected for her agency to participate in this program nationwide.

## 1990s

**June Jordan O'Neal '90** of Macon, Georgia, was called "Macon's Mother Theresa" in an article in the *Macon Telegraph* that featured her work in social services. A social worker for the Department of Family and Children Services, she works tirelessly to improve the lives of children in need. She also serves as a volunteer and neighborhood coordinator for the Peach Orchard, a low-income neighborhood in south-east Macon.

**Renee Allen Dyken, D.M.D. '90** lives in Birmingham, Alabama, and will complete orthodontic specialty training at the University of Alabama's School of Dentistry in June 1997.

**Jennifer Collier '90** of Lake City, Florida, has completed her master's degree in business administration. She is also certified to administer the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Jennifer is the director of housing at Lake City Community College.

**Shannon Hurley Ellard '91** of Memphis, Tennessee, has been named membership manager at the Memphis Zoo.

**Hinesville, Georgia, resident Hazel Carter Varnedoe '92** received her master's degree in early childhood education from Georgia Southern University in June 1996. She was chosen as Teacher of the Year at Joseph Martin Elementary for 1996-97.

**Truly A. McClellan '95** has moved to High Springs, Florida.

**Susan K. Horton '95** of Roopville, Georgia, will start graduate work at the State University of West Georgia. She will also begin looking for an early childhood teaching position. Susan completed her certification in March.

**Keena Hammond '95** of New York is pursuing a master's degree in art dealership and collecting at New York University.

**Kristi R. Hutchinson '95** of Jonesboro, Georgia, toured Italy during the summer of 1996. She has accepted a position with the Industrial Bank of Japan in Atlanta.

In Macon, **Aimee Hope Wood Morris '96** is the new marketing coordinator for the Macon Mall.

## MARRIAGES

*The Wesleyan College Alumnae Association extends congratulations to:*

**Betty Bishop Davidson '53** and **Donald L. Elliott**, who were married November 23, 1996, in Coral Gables, Florida, where they will reside.

**Virginia "Ginger" Kathryn Caldwell '83** of Marietta, Georgia, and **Hugh Thomas Musser**, who were married February 22, 1997. They will reside in Kennesaw, Georgia.

**Mary Marcia McMahan '92** of Atlanta and **J. David Winfrey, Jr.**, who were married December 14, 1996. They will reside in Louisville, Kentucky.

## FAMILY ADDITIONS & BIRTHS

*The Wesleyan College Alumnae Association extends congratulations to:*

**Janet L. Keys '78** and **Mark Rowe** of Birmingham, Alabama, on the birth of a son, **Michael Thompson**, on June 14, 1996.

**Ellen Futral Hanson '83** and **Jeff** on the birth of a son, **Thomas Brooks**, on December 31, 1996.

**Patricia Anne Potts Wells '86** and **Ray** of Callaway, Florida, on the birth of a daughter, **Alice Maura**, on August 3, 1996.

**Laura Reid Hibberts '87** and **John** of Savannah, Georgia, on the birth of a daughter, **Mary Caroline**, on January 22, 1997.

**Wyanne Coker Thompson '87** and **Daniel** of Alpharetta, Georgia, on the adoption of two daughters, **Montie, 5**, and **Kali, 3**.



Robin Blue Wilcox '89 and Ronnie of Decatur, Georgia, on the birth of a son, Ronnie, Jr., on September 24, 1996.

Teri Mitchell McClendon '90 and Johnny of Macon on the birth of a son, Jacob Mitchell, on January 16, 1997.

## SYMPATHY

*The Wesleyan College Alumnae Association extends sympathy to:*

Dorothy Otto Hope '30 of Lubbock, Texas, on the death of her sister, Margaret Otto Lamb '28 of Statesboro, Georgia, on March 13, 1997.

Pauline Willingham Moore '33 of Brownwood, Texas, on the death of her husband, Dr. John Allen Moore.

Anne Hyer Smith '42 and Betty Smith Addison '51, both of Alpharetta, Georgia, on the death of their brother, Robert C. Smith, on July 17, 1996.

Margaret Parsons Andrews '47 of Duluth, Georgia, on the death of her husband, Agnew "Andy" Andrews, Jr., on March 11, 1997.

Anne Carlton Blanchard '47 of Orlando, Florida, and Emmie Carlton Johnson '49 of Oxford, Georgia, on the death of Anne's son and Emmie's nephew, Richard "Rick" E. Blanchard, Jr., of Davis, California, in December 1996.

Anice Willcox McArthur '48 of Ailey, Georgia, on the death of her husband, John W. McArthur, on March 10, 1997, and on the death of her sister, Mary L. Willcox '43, of Vidalia, Georgia, on March 11, 1997.

Betty Davidson Rice '50 of Atlanta on the death of her husband, Frank S. Rice, on February 25, 1996.

Madge Clifton DeMay '51 of St. Simons Island, Georgia, on the death of her husband, Joseph "Duke" Parnell DeMay, on February 16, 1997.

Elinor Smith Miller '51 on the death of her husband, Warren C. Miller, on July 14, 1996.

Margaret Lynch Cordell '52 on the death of her mother in January 1997.

Betty Ray Wathen Mandelli '52 of Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the death of her mother, Mrs. Wallace Collin Wathen, in January 1997.

Nancy Lewis Montet '52 and Jeanette Lewis McLain '55, both of Atlanta, on the death of their mother, Jean Lewis, in January 1997.

Edwina Hall Beall '53 of Macon on the death of her sister, Peggy Hall Hearn, of Sarasota, Florida, on January 18, 1997.

Ada Morris Lamon '55 of Atlanta on the death of her aunt, Sara Louise Lamon '29 of Macon, on January 28, 1997.

Clarice Pittman Elder '58 of Dunwoody, Georgia, on the death of her aunt, Louise Pittman Peabody '32, of St. Simons Island, Georgia, on October 14, 1996.

Pat Rimmer Knox '58 and Susanne Lauff Knox '87 of Augusta, Georgia, on the death of Pat's husband and Susanne's father-in-law, Peter S. Knox, III, on December 8, 1996.

Catharine Burns Liles '66 and Hazel Burns Struby '74, both of Macon, on the death of their mother, Hazel Holmes Burns '41, of Macon on January 17, 1997.

Donna Howell Lawson '67 of Rochester, Minnesota, on the death of her father, Gordon L. Howell, of Fairburn, Georgia, in 1996.

Harriet Ann Hamilton '68 of Toms River, New Jersey, and Diane Hamilton Jackson '77 of Tifton, Georgia, on the death of their father, Jim S. Hamilton, on January 11, 1997.

Emily Brisendine Thrower '71 of Richmond, Virginia, on the death of her mother, Edna Vickers Brisendine, on January 27, 1997.

Valerie E. Cowart '80 of Merrimack, New Hampshire, on the death of her parents,

Malcolm and Edith Cowart, of Jacksonville, Florida (see *Class Notes* '80).

Veronica Hicks '88 of East Point, Georgia, on the death of her father, Clifford E. Hicks, on November 22, 1996.

## IN MEMORIAM

1919

Virginia Hatcher Haslam

1920

Harriet King Hartness

1923

Louise McKenzie Jones

1924

Ann Elizabeth Stanley

1927

Thalma Tarrer Lambe

1928

Margaret Otto Lamb

1929

Sara Louise Lamon

1930

Mildred Seawright Day

Walton Hinson Courson Moore

1932

Carolina Farnum Jackson

Louise Pittman Peabody

1933

Margaret Murphey Martin

1938

Azile Parker Alston

1939

Margaret Latimer Steetle

1941

Hazel Holmes Burns

1943

Mary L. Willcox

1948

Elizabeth Conner Tucker

1952

Leslie Spearman Boone

1957

Nancy Turner Mitchell

1972

Beth Kent

1976

Mary de Martini



◀ **REMEMBERING LUCIA:** From left, Richard and Mary Nunn Domingos '46, Malcolm and Polly Domingos Lester '45, with Ann Munck '38, who presented a memorial tribute to Lucia Chappell Domingos '18, '19 at the Macon History Club meeting held in the Candler Alumnae Center (see Alumnae Feature in this issue, page 20.)



# Alumnae Club News

## Atlanta

In March, Sally Sanders Jones '82, president of the Atlanta Club, presided at a luncheon-meeting at Anthony's Restaurant in Atlanta. The agenda included the installation of officers and a special tribute to Bob and May Ackerman. Our thanks to outgoing president Sally Sanders Jones '82 and officers Ruth White Fruit '54, Sally Moffett McKenna '75, and Margaret Duckworth Sewell '49. Congratulations to new president Julie Castle '76 and her officers for 1997-99: Debbie L. Stevenson '89, vice president; Meredith Henderson Tyree '88, second vice president; Julie Bowman Kimbrell '85, third vice president; Sally McKenna, secretary; Ruth Fruit, treasurer; and Sally Jones, parliamentarian.

## Augusta

Wesleyan trustee Harriet Laslie Reynolds '62 hosted a tea at her home in Augusta in honor of Bob and May Ackerman. Area alumnae enjoyed President Ackerman's update on the state of the college. Other guests from the college who spoke to the group were Gena Roberts Franklin '71, vice president for institutional advancement, and Cathy Coxey Snow '71, director of alumnae affairs.

## FLORIDA Jacksonville

Jacksonville-area alumnae honored Bob and May Ackerman with a dinner at Epping Forest Yacht Club in March. Area group leaders Kathy Amidon MacGregor '73 and Mary Lane Edwards Hartshorn '49 greeted alumnae from as far away as St. Augustine, Fernandina Beach, and Amelia Island, Florida. Other Wesleyan guests included Gena Franklin and Cathy Snow.

## NORTH CAROLINA Charlotte-Metrolina

In March, Ellen Chaney Patterson '62, president of the Charlotte-Metrolina Club, welcomed alumnae and guests to an "Afternoon with the President" honoring Bob and May Ackerman. The event was hosted by alumna trustee Diane A. Lumpkin '63 and her husband, Dr. W. Stewart Peery, at their home in Charlotte. Our thanks to outgoing president Ellen Patterson and congratulations to new president Carolyn Field Hall '76.

## NORTHEAST REGION New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania

Wesleyan alumnae were on hand to cheer the Pioneers at the annual Tyler Invitational Basketball Tournament, held at Smith College in January. Alumnae treated Wesleyan coach Lori Mazza and the Wesleyan team to dinner afterwards at Spaghetti Freddie's in Northampton. Our thanks to Patricia E. Sterling '84, who coordinated plans for the Wesleyan event at Smith, and to Barbara A. Brannon, director of public relations at Wesleyan, who photographed the game (see story and photos, page 15).



▲ **AUGUSTA:** From left, Bob and May Ackerman with Augusta Tea hostess Harriet Laslie Reynolds '62 and Ruth Hall Knox '40.



▲ **AUGUSTA:** Augusta alumnae Marian Carter Clark '63 (left), Mary Gurney Wade Everitt '65, Emma Lou Keaton Franklin '62, and Pat Evans Missar '53 at the tea honoring Bob and May Ackerman.



▲ **AUGUSTA:** From left, Pat Magnum '54, Carol Ann Rollins Harrison '62, and Artemesia Dennis Thevaos '52 enjoy tea.



▼ **JACKSONVILLE:** Area alumnae enjoy dinner at Epping Forest Yacht Club in Jacksonville, Florida.



**JACKSONVILLE:** At home in Jacksonville, Florida, Elizabeth "Izzy" Leaman '96 takes time out from graduate school and spring break to attend her first alumnae event with her mother, Kathy Weeks Leaman '72.

▼ **JACKSONVILLE:** From left, Bob Ackerman; Jacksonville hostesses Kathy Amidon MacGregor '73 and Mary Lane Edwards Hartshorn '49; and May Ackerman at Epping Forest Yacht Club.

## Alumnae Events

### April

- 18-20 Alumnae Weekend
- 22 Wesleyan Day in Charlottesville, Virginia (Washington, D.C., Metro Area Club)
- 24 Take Our Daughters to Work® Day at Wesleyan; End-of-Semester Concert featuring the Forester Sisters
- 26 Tour of Lady Bird Johnson National Wildlife Research Center (Central Texas Club)
- 26 Spring Luncheon (Denver, Colorado, Area Alumnae)

### May

- 5 Alumnae Luncheon with the Dean (Northeast Region Area Alumnae)
- 31 Spring Coffee honoring the Ackermans (Macon Club)



▲ **CHARLOTTE:** Charlotte-Metrolina alumnae spend an "Afternoon with the President" at the home of alumna trustee Diane A. Lumpkin '63.

## Alumnae Weekend 1997

**APRIL 18-20**

*Reunion classes:*

1917	1942	1967	1992
1922	1947	1972	1996
1927	1952	1977	
1932	1957	1982	
1937	1962	1987	



## CHARLENE PAYNE KAMMERER '70

# "A life abundantly full of surprises"

By Sara  
King  
Pilger  
'85



## ALUMNA PROFILE

Part of a continuing  
series of articles  
highlighting the  
achievements of  
Wesleyan  
graduates

Of all the labels that come with mothering, ministry, and marriage, none fits Bishop Charlene Kammerer better than her personal favorite: "passionate and compassionate woman."

"I am very at home being mother, wife and pastor, and am becoming a bishop, even though I know I've already been elected to that post. But I wouldn't begin my description with role identification. I'm just so grateful for good energy, health, vision, and friends to share the journey with."

Charlene Payne Kammerer '70 is the newly installed bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. As the first skirt-wearing Methodist bishop in the nine-state Southeastern Jurisdiction, Charlene is the presiding minister for 1,150 churches, 700 pastors, and 44 counties, as well as one addiction counselor (husband Leigh, who was a high school sweetheart), one high school senior (son Christopher), and one canine (Rowdy, the cocker spaniel).

She compares her field of ministry, a diverse blend of mega-churches and rural parishes, five colleges, and homes for retarded adults, with the territory of her own life.

"My personal life is just as rich. My interior life and spiritual life, attending friendships and nurturing relationships, are all very important to me and help keep me centered."

She has a few other activities in her life that also give her balance. She is a reader of mysteries (two in progress at the moment), avid walker (at least five times a week), and lover of kitchen duty ("it's a change of pace and you can actually see the results of what you're doing!"). She is also a traveler, currently planning her fiftieth birthday celebration for Cancun, Mexico, next year.

Holding an undergraduate degree in religion and philosophy from Wesleyan, master's degrees in both Christian education and divinity (Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, '72 and '75, respectively), and a doctor of ministry (United Theological Seminary, '91), Kammerer has followed "a persistent, genuine tug" toward the ministry first felt in high school. Unfortunately, there were no female role models in this field.

So, she's had to make her own path. And she has indeed forged ahead: all of her professional posts but one were groundbreaking positions for women in the church in the Southeast: first clergywoman to be senior pastor, elder in the Florida conference, district superintendent, and now bishop. This distinction "isn't something I chose, but I just happened to

be the one. My current position is the most significant 'first.' The rest of the U.S. has been poised and waiting for a woman bishop in the Southeast."

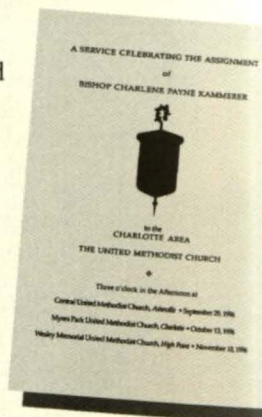
The Bishop, a 1990 recipient of the Alumnae Award for Distinguished Achievement in a Profession, is now serving as an alumna trustee at her alma mater, a position she has held since 1992. "It is such a good experience to be reconnected with this institution, and I am grateful that Wesleyan has prepared itself to continue to educate women for the 21st century. The training and modeling and values you receive there—the life skills—have certainly helped me every day."

She is particularly grateful to Dr. Harry Gilmer, a former Wesleyan professor of religion and later chair of the department. "He was my favorite professor and was the one who suggested the possibility of seminary to me." They also became good friends while at Wesleyan—she babysitting for his kids; he later officiating at her wedding.

The good ol' Wesleyan days still bring a smile to the lips of this Purple Knight, though so much has transpired in her life since her *cum laude* graduation. She recalls with fondness "all the times we sneaked out of the room and dyed the fountain purple," and with a chuckle, one pre-dawn event that has marked her for life with her Wesleyan friends.

"I was going from Hightower to Jones early one morning (in a trenchcoat and nightgown), fell off the sidewalk, and landed in the infirmary for two weeks. My friends never let me live it down that I actually fell off the sidewalk." In spite of a terrible leg injury she performed in STUNT the next week as a hobbling bumblebee. (Her class did not win.)

When she was honored as an outstanding alumna in 1990, Kammerer expressed her feelings about the threads that weave through her life, comments that will be valid for her at least another sixteen years while she serves as bishop, but probably for the remainder of her days, for a mother's—and minister's—work is never done: "I believe God has helped me honor the covenants of my life: marriage, ministry, and mothering, in an astonishing fabric that holds together. . . . I believe in grace and forgiveness. I love surprises—and life and ministry are abundantly full of surprises."







**COLLEGE FRIENDS REGINALD AND FRANKIE TRICE** lunch with the Ackermans and Gena Franklin '71. The portrait of the Trices shown in the background now hangs in the student recreation room that is named in Mr. Trice's honor.

*What's new in*

# Friends & Funds

**T**hanks to the dedication of many friends of the college, fiscal years 1994, 1995, and 1996 have been the three best years in Wesleyan's fund-raising history: total gifts have amounted to \$4.8 million, \$5.4 million, and \$5.1 million respectively. And "WOW! A Day for Wesleyan" has exceeded its ever-increasing goals each year since its inception four years ago.

Such record strides for the college would not be possible without the partnership of alumnae, trustees and associates, and friends in the community. Here are just a few highlights from recent months. **W**

**CONNECTING TO THE CAMPUS COMPUTER NETWORK** is a cinch now for off-campus students, thanks to a generous gift by Jim and Martha Groover Staples '49 (pictured at left in the Taylor Hall computer lab).



## WOW! a day for WESLEYAN

**Tuesday, February 4, 1997**

**MORE THAN MAGIC:**

Macon illusionist Mike Fuller entertained Gena Franklin '71 and members of the Wesleyan Board of Associates during the Kick-Off Breakfast for the fourth annual WOW! A Day for Wesleyan campaign. He convinced Gena with his magical duck that "it takes more than magic to raise money!"



**ALL SMILES:** Dan Forrester, president of the Board of Associates, was delighted with the news from annual fund director Susan Allen that through the efforts of the Associates, the Macon community had committed more than \$108,000 in gifts and pledges to support Wesleyan College's annual fund.





## ACKERMAN &amp; THE WESLEYAN COMMUNITY

*Mentoring is an important part of the educational process, Bob Ackerman believes—and practices. He closes out his years of leadership with the commencement address this May*

# Faculty & Students

Stories by  
Barbara A. Brannon



Ornate scroll motifs crown the alcove at the back of the Oval Hall, between the Ionic columns.

**D**ottie Whittington, a Golden Heart of the class of '99, had the butterflies last fall when she found out she would need to interview the president of the college for a Pioneer article on the Mathews Athletic Center (still under construction at that time). But when the appointment time arrived, she found it easier to talk with Ackerman than she had expected. "I was very impressed by his openness and approachability," says Dottie.

In fact, Ackerman suggested that they drive over and see the site. "I was shown this area that didn't look like much more than cleared ground—but President Ackerman's eyes seemed to glow as he pointed out how the diamond was to be placed on this side and the tennis courts right about here. I walked away excited about this facility that would not even open for another year."

Senior Heather Goodwin echoes Dottie's sentiment about the encouragement she has received from Wesleyan's president. "Two years ago, I took a year in absentia and traveled with the international group 'Up With People,'" she says. "President Ackerman was instrumental in pointing me in the right direction for credit for this endeavor. He supported me from the start and it was a pleasure to represent Wesleyan all over the world."

Faculty agree, enjoying a high level of collegiality and administrative support. "As a veteran faculty member completing my twenty-seventh year of service to Wesleyan," says psychology professor Bill Curry, "I have nothing but high praise for Dr. Ackerman's leadership. To realize the tremendous impact of his leadership on Wesleyan College one would have to have been here before he arrived....Because there was so much

**"BECAUSE I AM AN ENCORE STUDENT,"** says Sherry Harper of Lizella, "I originally felt like I was not necessarily a part of the campus life and 'sisterhood.'" At the beginning of the fall semester, the Ackermans gave a dinner at their home for the Encore students. It was my first semester of devoting my full time to college and I was very anxious about how the college was operated, who was in charge, what they would be like, etc. The dinner I attended relaxed my fears and made me feel like a very welcome part of the college.

*I cannot express enough appreciation for this simple act."*

concern with day to day survival there was little room to strive for greatness. The atmosphere today is so much more positive than in the pre-Ackerman era. While we still have problems to solve, Dr. Ackerman has put us in a position to be able to reach for preeminence as a woman's college in the South."

The "Faculty Follies" skit, performed in conjunction with STUNT, is a product of recent years. Ackerman's perennial part exhibits his sportsmanlike good humor: he is assigned to open each parody faculty meeting with the incantation, "Muble mumble."

As the Wesleyan community looks to its choice of successor, confidence is high that Bob Ackerman has prepared the college for a smooth transition. His final ceremonial occasion as president will be May 3, when he will deliver the commencement address to the class of 1997. The event will mark a "commencement" for Ackerman as much as for the graduating seniors.

As the Ackerman years come to a close at Wesleyan, the school and its twenty-second president will embark on new paths. We understand what Dottie Whittington means: "I only hope that as a college we can be lucky enough to find someone who cares so much as to share a vision with a first-year student and be so excited about the school that it is contagious."

**A SPECIAL COMMENCEMENT:** The address for the Commencement Exercises for the class of 1997, on May 3, will be delivered by President Ackerman.

The Ackermans' former pastor, the Reverend James Tiller of Gulf Shores, Alabama, will be the speaker at the Baccalaureate service the previous evening, 7:00 p.m. at the Mulberry Street United Methodist Church. Tiller was pastor to the Ackermans in Madison, New Jersey, during Bob's years at Drew University.

Graduating seniors and friends will process to the baccalaureate service from the site of the original Wesleyan campus atop College Hill, a tradition begun eleven years ago at the suggestion of May Ackerman.



One of the biggest leaps for Wesleyan during the last thirteen years has been its affiliation with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The NCAA means the big time—although its Division III is specifically designed to encourage athletics as a part of the overall academic experience. Scholarships for athletic performance are not permitted, and that makes individual and team successes even more a cause for celebration.

When Wesleyan point guard Brandy Conner first played in Smith College's Ainsworth Gym as a freshman in 1993, she admired the school's "1,000-Point Club" banner. Only one player on Smith's team had earned the honor. In January 1997, when Conner returned to Smith to play in the Tyler Invitational Basketball Tournament for the second time, she was only a

few points away from reaching the coveted milestone for her own team.

She reached the thousand-point mark in front of an enthusiastic home crowd for Wesleyan's game on February 12, against #3-ranked Savannah College of Art & Design. Conner, a senior pre-medical student from Slidell, Louisiana, went into the game four points shy.

During the first half, a nervous

Conner scored only two points, on foul shots. The suspense mounted as more than ten minutes elapsed in the second period without a score from Conner. With nine minutes to go she was fouled again, but missed the first of two baskets. Only one point short of a thousand, a few seconds later Conner drove in for a layup. The fans went wild as a special time-out was called for a ceremony on court, in which Conner was presented with the game ball and recognized for her athletic record.

Despite the team's 75-36 loss to SCAD, the fans congratulated Conner and the team on their achievement. Conner is the only four-year letter winner in two sports at Wesleyan, playing all four years of Wesleyan's NCAA history in both basketball and volleyball.

Reaching 1,000 points or more is rare enough in NCAA-Division III women's athletics (only a handful of scorers from Wesleyan's rival teams have achieved the goal, and Conner is Wesleyan's first) — but Conner is also

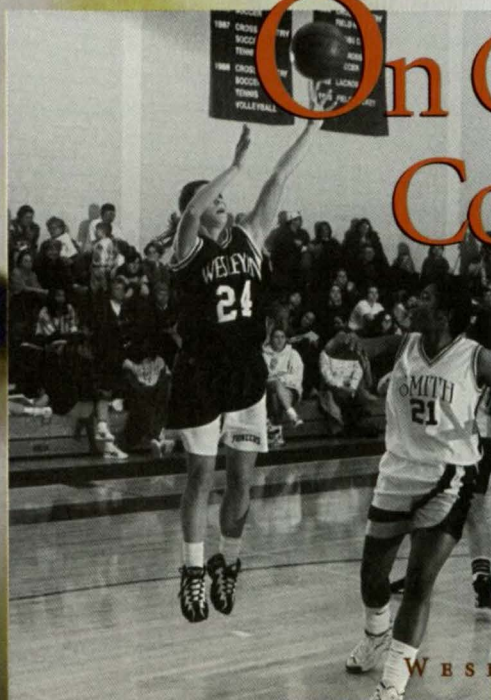
**A CONGRATULATORY HUG** from teammate Karri Medley celebrates Conner's 1,000th point, during the February 12, 1997 game against Savannah College of Art & Design. Conner finished out her Wesleyan career with a total of 1,053.

What's new with faculty and students

## On Court or in Class, Conner's a Winner

### THE OLDEST WOMEN'S COLLEGE VS. THE LARGEST:

*It was a bittersweet twenty-second birthday for Brandy Conner when Wesleyan's young team lost to powerhouse Smith 80-40 in the Tyler Tournament. But a cheering group of Wesleyan alumnae helped keep the team's spirits up. Alumnae treated the Pioneers to a spaghetti dinner and birthday cake following the game.*





an exemplary scholar-athlete. She has been participating in an ecological research project under the guidance of Professor Ronald B. Toll, involving collection of data on marine organisms at a field site on the Georgia coast (see *Wesleyan Magazine*, Fall 1996).

"Brandy's high school coach told her she'd never be a college player," said Wesleyan head

basketball coach Lori Mazza. "She didn't even get to play that much in high school, but here at Wesleyan she was a standout from the start." Conner was the leading scorer during her first year of play (which was also Wesleyan's first year as a Division III team) and has continued to be one of the top scorers each



**CONNER'S FAMILY** visit campus during Brandy's final season. From left, father Ken; Brandy; mother Patricia; sister Lauren (a future Wesleyanne?).

season. In the 1993 Tyler Invitational Tournament at Smith College, Conner shot the game-winning free throw.

Conner's achievement doesn't really surprise her parents, Ken and Patricia Conner of Slidell: "Brandy has always taken the initiative to be successful," says Patricia Conner. "If she has her mind set on something, she's going to go for it."

W



#### NORTHEASTERN-AREA ALUMNAE

Nannette Coco '73, Karlyn Sturmer '75, Patricia Sterling '84, and Paige Getty '93 root for the Wesleyan Pioneers January 22 in Northampton, Massachusetts.

## PKs Fly High on STUNT Night

By Lisa Hyman '98,  
Public Relations Intern

**S**TUNT, one of Wesleyan's most treasured traditions, took place on February 15 this year. STUNT is a competition between classes, in which each class creates and performs a thirty-minute musical. During rehearsals, new memories and friendships are formed, reflecting the true spirit and purpose of STUNT.



After two weeks of intense rehearsals, backdrop painting, and spirit, it was the moment we had all been waiting for: the announcement of the 1997 STUNT cup winner. The Pirates, the Purple Knights, the Golden Hearts, and the Green Knights waited impatiently as Professor Matt Martin delayed the moment of truth with a reading from *Moby Dick*. Martin intoned, "Call me Ishmael," but finally after rounds of laughter and booing from the audience, Martin announced that the Purple Knights were the 1997 STUNT Cup winners.

The Purple Knights' STUNT was set in an airport in "Sadecambi," a fictional city created by the junior STUNT committee Sarah Weeks, Dena Zeitouni, Carmie Kypriandes, Melinda Caspers, and Blanca Venuto. The storyline of PK STUNT, "Sadecambi's Blizzard That Almost Was," was narrated through six choreographed songs. When Sadecambi Regional Airport hears reports of a snowstorm, all flights are canceled. As children, executives, college students and flight attendants frantically prepare for a change in plans, a few unexpected surprises occur: a lonely pilot meets Vera, a spirited flight attendant, and they start dating; a mysterious millionaire is in the airport, willing to give away \$1 million if she can find one genuinely nice person; a crook, also on the loose in the airport, is busted by two undercover FBI agents disguised as honeymooners. Vera convinces the millionaire to divide the money among all of the passengers, the snowstorm heads in a different direction, and the relieved passengers are able to board the plane after all.


For the second consecutive year, the Pirates received the Spirit Cup. This award was given to the seniors for their cooperation during rehearsals, dining hall decorations, and good sportsmanship throughout STUNT. The Pirates' colorful performance, "Candy Maniacs," was composed by Carrie Herndon, Christy McMillan, Chasity McWilliams, Brandy Conner, and Wendy Lazzaro. "It's all a conspiracy" when the owner's greedy niece, Brenda, tries to take over Bernie's, a happy-go-lucky candy factory. Brenda turns the factory into a dreary place where profit is the first priority. Fortunately, the evil plot is discovered, and Bernie's once again becomes a cheerful place to work.



Meanwhile, at Camp Upakooka, the Golden Hearts were divided into "The Birds and the Brainless" by sophomore STUNT committee Jennifur Rosado, Nichole Arnault, Odonia Ezell, Lisa Dowell, and Mary Lynn Johnson. The nerds trigger laughter as they bird-watch and fumble around, but their feelings are hurt when the "cool" campers tease and play dirty tricks on them. On Field Day, the big camp competition, the nerds beat the popular kids. The Golden Hearts taught the audience a valuable lesson when the two rival cliques learn to become friends. The popular kids promise to teach the birdwatchers about hair and makeup; in return, the nerds teach their old rivals the art of birdwatching.

The Green Knights amazed the audience during their first STUNT, "We 'R' Toys," written by Carrie Stribling, Erin Young, Orendia Vaughn, Lisa Wentz, and Robyn

Harris. The night before the biggest shopping day of the year, the toys in the We 'R' Toys department store come alive in a toy-sized whodunit. Bebe Doll discovers that her car has been wrecked and falsely accuses Fefe Hair Doll. Fefe is sent to jail and hires Detective Gidget to find the real criminal. The plot thickens when P.F.C. Tom admits that the accident was caused when he borrowed Bebe's car to buy her an engagement ring—but P.F.C. Tom had stopped to see Lulu for one final fling. As the soap opera unwinds, P.F.C. Tom admits the truth to Bebe, all the toys are bought by children, and the toys live happily ever after.

Each class' STUNT was filled with talent, energy, and creativity. Kim Benoit, STUNT Co-Chair, adds, "Every class did a great job. If it were up to me, I would have given all four classes a STUNT cup." 

### First Family, Continued from page 5

up and was out of here in a flash," Mitchell remembers. "Everyone who saw him dash across campus, through the loggia, down the steps, and across the lawn said the same thing: 'he was running so fast, he was a blur.'"

His main concern, of course, was getting to the dorm quickly to make sure that everyone was out of the building safely. He then turned his attention to the firemen, who insisted on attempting to go through the dorm's ceiling to get to the attic where the fire had originated. Ackerman knew, of course, that the ceiling was a concrete slab, and he repeatedly tried to tell the firemen to go through the roof instead. All the firemen tried was Ackerman's patience, however.

Don Welch, then vice president of Institutional Advancement, saw the Marine captain in Ackerman that day. Welch recalls that Ackerman shouted to the firemen, "Fellows, do you think you could move a little faster?"—a very loose paraphrase," Welch recounts with a smile, "of what Ackerman *actually* said."

### A chapter closes

Whether fighting fires, holding horses, or simply going about his daily routine, Ackerman sees himself as a ser-

vant. "A leader is, in fact, a servant," he states matter-of-factly. Recalling that at times he's had to make unpopular decisions that didn't garner much applause, Ackerman simply says, "it comes with the job."

"I've been driven by goals at Wesleyan," Ackerman says as he anticipates the freedom of retirement. "Balancing budgets, recruiting students, raising funds...it will be a shock to me to not have those things to do, to not be responsible for anything big. I worry about how I will handle that."


May, on the other hand, doesn't think her husband will have any trouble adjusting to retirement. "I hope I can get him on the tennis court with me," she quips, emphasizing that tennis is her first love for free-time activity. She knows Bob will continue to read several books at one time; he hopes to rekindle his love of rose gardening.

"Retirement will be bittersweet," May says. "We've lived in this house longer than either of us has ever lived in any one place, even as children. It will be especially hard to leave." Bradley House is only one of the ties that bind Bob and May to Macon and Wesleyan. Both of them say, without a moment's hesitation,

that friendships are what they will miss most.

As May looks wistfully around the comfortable, soothingly blue and yellow living room of Bradley House, she notes how much her family has enjoyed living there. The Ackermans' personal belongings blend well with the home's permanent furnishings, mirroring the way Wesleyan's first family has blended harmoniously with the college and community.

While May hopes that the two of them will take things slowly and not get involved in a lot of civic activities early in their retirement, Bob already has plans to write a book on Wade Hampton, the nineteenth-century South Carolina governor and senator.

In returning to the South Carolina archives to work on a book, Ackerman has come full circle. From where he started as a young archivist, to his years of service in higher education, to enjoying life with his wife and family, Robert Kilgo Ackerman has himself become a part of history—the history of Wesleyan College. 

*Thanks to all the members of the Wesleyan community—students, alumnae, trustees, faculty, and administrators, who gave their input for this story and the following ones.*



by  
**Suzanne  
Spooner**  
**'97**



UNRAVELING  
OF THE  
**Mystery  
BEHIND  
Wesleyan's  
CONNECTION  
to the  
MIDNIGHT  
RIDERS:**

**A STORY OF  
A WESLEYANNE,  
HER INTERNSHIP,  
A PICTURE,**

AND  
**A LEGENDARY  
BAND**

The  
song "Ain't  
Wastin' Time  
no More" by the  
Allman Brothers  
Band best summed  
up my immediate  
desire to find a  
place in Wesleyan's  
internship program.

This program was one of the major features that attracted me to Wesleyan as a first-year student, and as soon as I got a car at school I wasted no time in finding an internship. I began my first internship in the fall of my junior year. Now, nine credit hours and four internships later, I can say that I took full advantage of Wesleyan's internship experience. However, it was not until my most recent position at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame that I began to learn about Wesleyan's role in Georgia music history.

I was excited beyond belief about my newest endeavor at the Hall of Fame. Since I am interested in becoming involved in the entertainment business, this internship was the perfect opportunity. My first day on the job, I was introduced to everyone and given a complete tour of the

museum. As a native Floridian, I was amazed at the variety of musical talent that has come from Georgia and, more specifically, Macon. I had no idea that Phil Walden had started Capricorn Records in Macon and introduced the world to musicians like Otis Redding, the Allman Brothers Band, and the Marshall Tucker Band.

The more deeply involved I became in my

... by chance,  
I discovered  
the Allman  
Brothers' link  
to Wesleyan  
College.

internship, the more I learned about Georgia's rich music history. I was constantly astonished by the different histories of various Georgia musicians. I have learned about all kinds of artists from big-band leader Harry James, to gospel great Dr. Thomas A. Dorsey, to the founders of Southern rock—the Allman Brothers Band.

The Allman Brothers Band and their Macon legacy have always interested me. I did not know a lot about the Allman Brothers, but when I began working at the Hall of Fame, I took a

personal interest in the band and their years in Macon.

I followed the trail of the Allman Brothers Band from their days of eating at H & H Restaurant with Mama Louise to "The Big House" where the group lived on Vineville Avenue. Before it was over, I could drive down almost any street in Macon and point out some kind of connection to the band. And by chance, I discovered the Allman Brothers' link to Wesleyan College.

In the college's public relations office recently, I spotted a photo of what appeared to be an Allman performance in Porter Auditorium. The public relations staff had no further information about the picture, but they invited me to research it.

I immediately set out on the quest. Hall of Fame curator Joseph Johnson was baffled by the photo, but volunteer coordinator and die-hard Allman Brothers fan Marty Willet could positively identify two people in the picture. One was easy: Gregg Allman. The drummer, Willet said, was Jai "Jaimoe" Johnson. He added that the picture was of the Gregg Allman Band, the group as it was re-formed following Duane Allman's 1971 death.

On that slim lead, I



took the photo to several Wesleyan faculty and staff members. Finally I struck gold with psychology professor Bill Curry. "I believe it was the first show of the Gregg Allman Band's world tour. I remember the crew spent the whole day putting up a screen that was a new lighting technique." Curry went on to tell me that the concert was a benefit show and that music professor Fletcher Anderson might remember more information.

Professor Anderson was familiar with the concert. "The concert was in 1974 and it was a benefit for the Wesleyan Glee Club to travel to Vienna to perform for the Vienna Symposium." He suggested I call Sylvia Ross, a



## THE GREGG ALLMAN BAND PLAYS PORTER

**IN '74:** From left, Charlie Hayward, bass guitar; Bill Stewart, drums; Scott Boyer, rhythm guitar; Jai "Jaimoe" Johnson, drums; Gregg Allman, keyboard; Tommy Talton, lead and slide guitar; Randall Bramlett, soprano and alto saxophone; David Brown, tenor saxophone; Harold "Bullet" Williams, baritone saxophone; Annie Sutton, background vocals; Peter Eklund, trumpet.

former music professor who had headed the event.

Professor Ross told me the event had raised almost \$4000 for the Glee Club's Vienna trip. "The benefit was a stroke of good luck and good timing for both the Glee Club and Gregg Allman's band," Ross explained; the band had found the Wesleyan concert to be the perfect opportunity to try out their new lighting design before taking the show on the road.

The initial mystery behind the picture had been solved. But I still had not identified all the band members. Most of the faces in the picture were in the shadow, so a positive identification called for someone who knew the band exceptionally well. My lucky break came at the Hall of Fame the day Chuck Leavell arrived for a photo session.

Leavell, a master pianist,

was one of the leading members of the group Sea Level, and he was also featured on several Allman Brothers albums. Leavell is praised throughout the music industry as one of the finest musicians of our time. In recent years he has performed with acts such as Blues Traveler, Eric Clapton, and the Rolling Stones.

Needless to say, when he showed up at the Hall of Fame, I jumped at the chance to show him the Wesleyan picture. He generously and quickly named everyone in the picture. Ironically, though Leavell himself was onstage with Gregg Allman on the night in question, he was on the far left of the group, outside the picture.

Throughout my four years at Wesleyan, I have heard all sorts of rumors, but not many hard facts, about the Allman Brothers.

The music history of Macon and Wesleyan is, sadly, a mystery to most other Wesleyan students too. It is by pure luck and coincidence that I found this picture and learned of Wesleyan's episode with the Allman Brothers. I was also blessed with a wonderful internship that allowed me to find out a great deal of information about music history.

The story behind the picture of the Gregg Allman Band is yet another aspect of Wesleyan that makes it a special and unique place. I realize this is just one story of hundreds that tells of Wesleyan's connection to the music world. I genuinely hope that in the future our students and alumnae will want to learn more about Wesleyan's role in Georgia music history. **W**



**Suzanne Spooner** is a Pirate of the Class of '97 and will graduate this May. She thanks all of the Wesleyan staff and professors who assisted with the article and sends special appreciation to the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, Ms. Sylvia Ross, and Mr. Chuck Leavell for all their help.



*Wesleyan lost a dear friend upon the death of Lucia Pauline Chappell Domingos '18, '19 on August 15, 1996. But her memory—and her name—live on*

## A LEGACY OF *Lucias*

*Story by Barbara A. Brannon*



### **'BEAUTY OF CHARACTER':**

*Lucia Pauline Chappell Domingos' Wesleyan sisters described her attributes thus, in presenting her with the 1965 Distinguished Service Award: "her wisdom a steady influence in times of crisis for the college; a rare gift for friendship; gracious serenity combined with an infectious gaiety and wit; quiet depth of nature and beauty of character."*

When Lucia Chappell was a little girl in Macon, so the story goes, her grandfather, Colonel Hardeman, had gone down to the College to hold the annual Commencement meeting of the Board of Trustees—but had left his glasses at home. He telephoned Lucia's mother and had her send the child on the streetcar to bring them to him. Lucia Chappell Domingos '18, '19 never forgot the impression that early campus visit made on her, nor the gravity of her mission to that august assembly.

Lucia made many subsequent trips to both Wesleyan campuses, and in the 1950s became, herself, a member of the Board of Trustees. Her connections to the college were myriad, and her contributions greatly missed upon her death last August at the age of 97.

Lucia Chappell Domingos represented the third generation in a Wesleyan legacy dating from 1860 to 1977. Five of the Wesleyan students in the family even share the same name: Lucia.

### **Nineteenth-century forebears**

The first was Lucia Griswold Hardeman, wife of the aforementioned Colonel Isaac Hardeman, who served as chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1904 to 1914. Lucia attended Wesleyan in 1860, a year of wartime shortages during which the college nevertheless kept its doors open continuously.

Lucia and Isaac's daughter Pauline (Wesleyan 1896) married Clarence Chappell; of their four children, only one was a daughter, and they named her Lucia.

**LUCIA  
PAULINE  
CHAPPELL**  
*in the 1918  
Veterropt.*



### **The third generation (and more)**

Lucia Pauline Chappell graduated from the first class at Macon's Lanier High School in 1915, then went on to earn her bachelor of music degree

from Wesleyan in 1918 and a bachelor of arts the next year. In 1921 she married Alonzo Domingos (whose own mother, Alice McKenzie Domingos, was a Wesleyan student in the 1860s). Following Alonzo's death in 1941, Lucia took a job as a counselor in the Naval Ordnance Plant during World War II, both

to do her part in the war effort and to put her own daughters through college.

Both Domingos girls graduated from Wesleyan: Pauline Hardeman

*A plaque mounted in the foyer of the Candler Center during the college's sesquicentennial honors this legacy.*





Domingos (Lester) in 1945 and Lucia Chappell Domingos (Chapman) in 1948. The daughter of Lucia and James E. Chapman, Lucia Pauline Chapman (Carr), was a graduate of the Wesleyan class of 1977—she now resides in Macon, and doesn't have far to come to her twentieth reunion this spring.

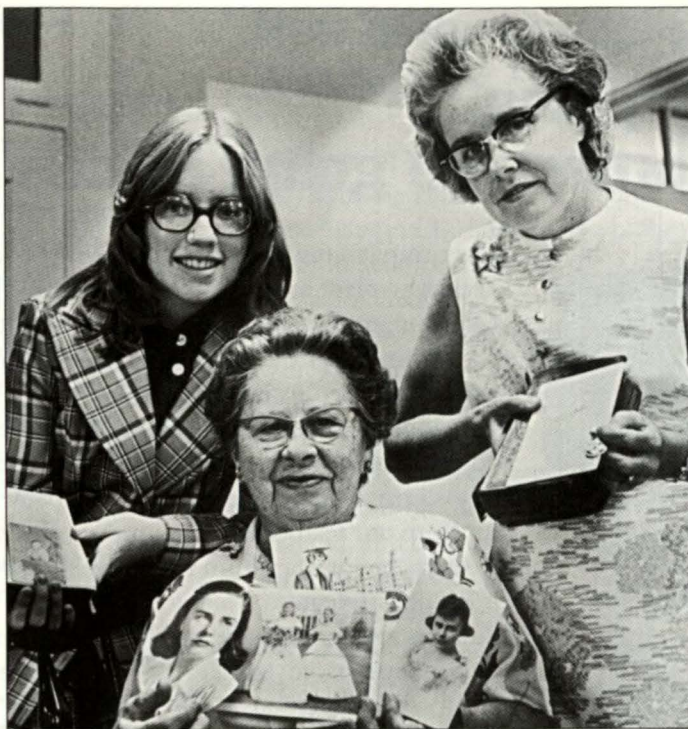
### Service through career, community, and college

But back to her grandmother's story. Lucia Domingos soon became allergic to the gunpowder used in the ordinance factory and had to switch jobs. She became an interviewer with the Georgia State Employment Service, a position in which she served with distinction until retirement in 1967, often helping hard-to-place clients find jobs.

In 1965 she received the Alumnae Association award for distinguished service to Wesleyan—a recognition based on her various roles as president of the Macon Alumnae Club, vice president of the Alumnae Association, and Alumnae Trustee as well as her many less formal contributions.

A longtime member of the Macon History Club and numerous other community activities, Lucia Domingos was a charter member of the Sidney Bayne Sunday School class at Vineville United Methodist Church. By the time she left Macon to live at Magnolia Manor in Americus, she had taught the class for fifty years. The class heaped tributes upon her and let her know how much she would be missed.

Lucia was also legendary for her talent with flowers. "As long as I can remember, flowers were a part of her life," recalls daughter Pauline ("Polly") Lester. Back in 1936, Lucia



had helped dress up the college's centennial celebration; over the years, she gave away to friends herbs from her ornamental garden or potpourri sachets from her own recipe. Her love



*Lucia would reply  
without fail,  
"But who is going to do  
it if I don't?"*

for gardens even took her to Britain as a spry septuagenarian, for a tour of English gardens.

### A birthday homecoming

Lucia came home to Macon in September 1988 to celebrate her ninetieth birthday in the Hardeman Avenue house in which she was born (by then the Bon Appetit restaurant in the converted Victorian Village).

**THREE LUCIAS** are pictured here, in an issue of *Wesleyan Alumnae News* twenty years ago: senior Lucia Pauline Chapman (Carr) '77, her grandmother, Lucia Pauline Chappell Domingos '18, '19, and her mother, Lucia Chappell Domingos Chapman '48. They hold photographs of the other Wesleyan Lucias.

Many members of her extended family attended, and the *Macon Telegraph* recorded some of her stories. She shared the favorite one about her grandfather and her childhood trip to Wesleyan.

Throughout her long life Lucia Domingos shared her family stories, her flowers, her knowledge of the Bible, and her time and energy with others. Her daughter cautioned her, later in life, not to overexert herself trying to do everything people asked. She would reply without fail, "But who is going to do it if I don't?"

Others will now have to take up where Lucia's willing spirit has left off. Her family members have already made arrangements in that regard—they have asked for any gifts in Lucia's memory to be designated for the Georgia Room in the college's Willet Memorial Library. In this way, the legacy that the first Lucia began may continue on for many future generations. **W**

Sources: "Nominee for Alumnae Trustee," *Wesleyan Alumnae News*, May 1955; funeral notice, *Macon Telegraph*, Sunday, 18 August, 1996. Many thanks to Polly Lester '45 for her careful checking of the biographical information included here.



## Entrepreneurship Seminar, Part 2

# By bus or by plane, Wesleyan women are going places



Blue Bird's Wanderlodge

On February 18, about 40 Wesleyan students, faculty, alumnae and staff toured the plant facilities of two central Georgia industries: the Blue Bird Body Company of Fort Valley, and McDonnell Douglas Corporation of Macon. The day-long trip was part of the semi-annual Entrepreneurship Seminar sponsored by the D. Abbott Turner Center for the Advancement of Women in Business and Wesleyan

alumnae Alexis Xides Bighley '67, Lou Beller '64, and Lynda Brinks Pfeiffer '63 (see "Wesleyan Women Mean Business," *Wesleyan College News*, Winter 1997).

Participants had the opportunity to compare management styles and corporate cultures of the two firms (those who had attended the fall seminar at Coca-Cola and CNN could also

draw comparisons among all four). Executives, plant managers, engineers, human resources directors, and accountants from each company gave up generous portions of their workday to discuss their roles and field questions from students. "It was great to see the team concept from our textbooks in action," said business major Mary Ann Kroah, a junior Encore student.

Students were able to ask a wide variety of questions, covering everything from environmental impact to education requirements for employment to safety regulations. "How do you test the seats?" asked one. "We were hoping you'd volunteer," quipped corporate quality director Doug Freeman.

According to senior Janet Fallon, it was also interesting to see what really goes on in an assembly line: "It takes fewer people than you think, to make 15,000 buses!"

That's the annual volume Blue Bird turns out, in its million-square-foot factory. The Wesleyan group, sporting safety goggles and earplugs, were able to see the operation from chassis building to floor welding to body painting of the world-famous yellow school buses. They were most impressed, however, by the luxury Wanderlodge coaches. Alumna

and trustee Lynda Pfeiffer was even on hand with her own Wanderlodge and gave the group an impromptu tour of that side of Blue Bird's operations.

Following lunch in the Blue Bird cafeteria, where students had the chance to talk one-on-one with company managers, the group spent the afternoon at McDonnell Douglas' 160,000-square-foot Team Macon plant. The firm builds skin-panel sub-assemblies for the new C-17 transport aircraft. Students were amazed to learn

*Be on the lookout for an expanded seminar series on campus in fall 1997. The seminar has proved so popular among students that its alumnae sponsors and faculty leaders are broadening its scope to cover every division of the college. You'll read more about this new program in the Summer Wesleyan College News.*



### INSIDE THE C-17:

McDonnell Douglas engineer David Dempsey, left, explains the careful documentation of assembly "buy-offs" to Krissy Anderson, Ann Smith, and Janet Fallon. Glenna Dod, Ann Smith, Tena Roberts, and Barbara Brannon accompanied about forty students on the trip.

that production of a military plane from concept to delivery takes four to five years, and that the Macon plant builds eight planes per year. They were able to observe the precision assembly of an aircraft large enough to carry rows of tanks, several helicopters, or large numbers of troops — a vehicle that costs \$135 million, in sharp contrast to the \$50,000 school bus.

Given the choice, which method of transportation would the students pick? No contest, the group agreed. They'd take the half-million-dollar Wanderlodge. **W**





Fine arts, *Continued from page 11*

Grooms lectured on depictions of African-Americans in popular films. After a luncheon, he led a group discussion on the same topic and read from his latest book.

• Wesleyan alumna Chi Ezekwueche and Betty Bivins Edwards, both of Macon, presented "Landscapes of Domesticity," an exhibit of their artwork, February 17 through March 19 in Wesleyan's East Gallery.

Ezekwueche, a native of Nguru, Northern Nigeria, explores in her prints Uli, the art of the Igbo women of South-eastern Nigeria. "It is a style that is very dear to me. It is the art of my childhood. Uli is life. Uli is hospitality," Ezekwueche says. Hospitality is also the focus of

Edwards' work — Southern hospitality, that is. A native of Milledgeville, Edwards explores desserts as metaphors for Southern womanhood. "We knew all was right in the world when those desserts were placed on the table. Even now, I associate special people with their certain dessert recipes and have begun using them as images in my work ...," writes Edwards.

• The renowned Chicago Brass Quintet performed at Wesleyan on February 27. The group presented a convocation that morning in Taylor Amphitheatre and gave a concert that evening in Porter Auditorium.

• The Wesleyannes and the Wesleyan Concert Choir presented their spring concert, "Words, Music, and The Sound of Women's Voices," April 13 in Porter Auditorium, with the assistance of the newly formed Expressions Dance Company. Both choral groups will perform selections from their repertoire on a tour through south Georgia and north Florida in May. If you're in the Macon area, look for Wesleyan's music faculty and students this spring on four different segments of WMAZ-TV's "Date with Del." **W**

## New biography tells story of Wesleyan's "Pioneer Lady of Flight"

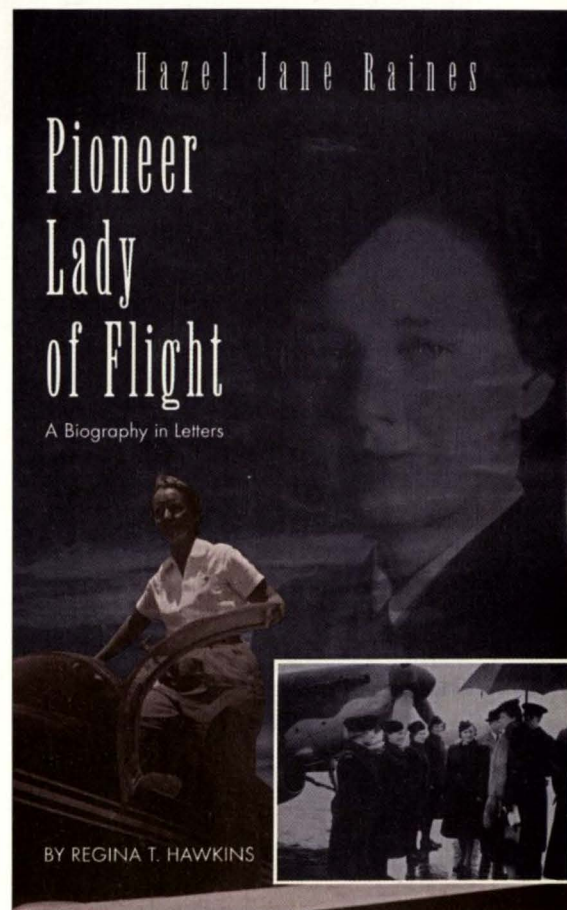
One of Wesleyan's most famous alumnae is the subject of a recent book: *Hazel Raines: Pioneer Lady of Flight*, edited by her niece Regina T. Hawkins, is a biography in letters documenting her career in aviation. Raines, a 1936 graduate of Wesleyan, was the first woman in Georgia to obtain private and commercial pilot's licenses.

The letters were written by Raines to her mother from 1942 until her death in 1956. These letters are filled with humor, courage, observations on the war in England, and conversations with notable people such as Jacqueline Cochran, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Lady Astor.

Born in 1916, Raines barnstormed with local airshows in the 1930s and was recognized as one of the South's outstanding flyers. In 1942, she was chosen by Jacqueline Cochran as one of twenty-five American women to ferry planes with the Air Transport Auxiliary in England. These pilots flew through balloon barrages without ammunition or radio, delivering planes to factories for repair and to RAF Squadrons. Hazel Raines' wartime experiences in England included a Christmas visit with Lady Astor at her Cliveden Estate, and crashing a Spitfire through the roof of an English house.

Raines' decision to become a pilot took courage, and her letters span a period when women in aviation struggled to be accepted in society. Raines died in London of a heart attack in 1956 at age 40.

Regina T. Hawkins, daughter of Wesleyan trustee Reginald Trice and his wife Frankie, presently resides in Atlanta. In 1989, when Raines was inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame at the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Ga., Hawkins accepted the Women of Achievement honor on Raines' behalf. **W**



**"AFTER GRADUATING FROM WESLEYAN CONSERVATORY** in 1936, Hazel Raines accepted a dare and began learning to fly at Herbert Smart Airport near Macon. In 1938, she received her solo license and a private one in 1939. By 1940, Hazel had become the only woman in Georgia to earn a commercial license. . . ." Hawkins' book is available from Mercer University Press.



*One of the world's most influential women—and Wesleyan's most famous daughter—has just celebrated her 100th birthday. Here, we bring you an account of her birthday party (with thanks to the Chinese Information and Culture Center, New York).*

# THE CENTURY OF MADAME CHIANG

*By Sofia Wu*

*Staff writer*

*Central News Agency, Taipei*

NEW YORK, MARCH 18—Madame Chiang Kai-shek, one of the most outstanding Chinese women of the twentieth century, jovially celebrated her 100th birthday on Tuesday, receiving well-wishers from the Republic of China at her residence in Manhattan.

Donning a traditional Chinese-style long gown known as a *chipao*, Madame Chiang appeared in high spirits when she met with representatives of the ROC government and a delegation from the ruling Kuomintang (KMT), who traveled to New York to wish the former ROC first lady many happy returns on her centennial.

Madame Chiang was overjoyed to receive one hundred red roses presented by Jason Hu, the top ROC representative in the United States, on behalf of President Lee Teng-Hui, as a birthday gift.

The widow of

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek then carefully read a congratulatory message from President Lee and asked Hu to thank Lee, on her behalf, for his kindness.

Madame Chiang, whose maiden name is Soong Mei-ling, told Hu that her birth date—February 12 according to the Chinese calendar and March 20 in the Western calendar—is traditionally known as the birthday of the Goddess of Flowers in China.

Madame Chiang was born in 1898, but as Chinese usually consider everyone to be one year old at birth, she is celebrating her 100th birthday this year.

Madame Chiang later met with an eight-member KMT delegation, headed by Yu Kuo-hwa, a former premier and now a KMT vice chairman. Yu presented a personal letter from President Lee in his capacity as KMT chairman, in which Lee expressed his admiration for Madame Chiang for her contributions to the country and the ruling party. As KMT chairman, Lee also presented Madame Chiang with a large landscape painted by noted Chinese artists Ou Hau-nien.

A jubilant Madame Chiang posed for pictures with all well-wishers representing the ROC government and the ruling party. She also presented each well-wisher with a collection of her calligraphic works and paintings as souvenirs.

Madame Chiang, who has spent most of the twenty-two years since her husband's death in seclusion in New York, was once considered the most powerful woman in China. Her life has been inextricably linked with the history of modern China and Taiwan. She became widely known in the West as a

spokeswoman for the Chinese cause against the invading Japanese Imperial Army in the 1930s.

After the Chinese communists took control of the mainland in 1949, Madame Chiang and her husband retreated to Taiwan. The couple became Asia's foremost anti-communist symbol. Generalissimo Chiang served as ROC president and KMT chairman until his death in Taipei in 1975. **W**



## MADAME CHIANG HONORED BY WESLEYAN IN '43:

*Above, Madame Chiang was one of the three Soong sisters to receive the honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Wesleyan in 1943. As Soong May-ling, she spent many of her formative years at Wesleyan, with elder siblings E-ling and Ching-ling. A member of the Wesleyan freshman class of 1916, May-ling completed her studies at Wellesley College in Massachusetts.*

*Madame Chiang was born in 1898, but as Chinese usually consider everyone to be one year old at birth, she is celebrating her 100th birthday this year. ★*



## *From the Dean of the College*

*I* consider the opportunity to come to know Bob Ackerman and to serve as part of his administration to be two of the defining experiences of my life. President Ackerman is one of the most remarkable individuals I have ever met, a model for me and for our students.

President Ackerman came to us with an uncanny recognition for the strength of Wesleyan's mission and of how that mission could be brought to life and fully realized. As a historian, he came to us with a profound respect for Wesleyan's past and its importance for our future, with a clear vision for a future for this institution that would build upon our distinctive mission—a mission he understands and embraces better than anyone I have ever met.

Much of what we now know as Wesleyan is a direct result of that vision. President Ackerman's legacy includes a reframing of the college around its original mission, the underscoring of the essences or values of this place as a liberal arts college for women affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

His legacy includes enrollment growth; tripling of the college's endowment; a clear sense of the significance of the college's ties to the Methodist church; a very fine faculty; Computer Focus and the networking of the entire campus; a much improved physical plant, including air conditioned residence halls and the Mathews Athletic Center; an automated library; one of the first academically-focused first-year seminar programs; an honors program; a strategic planning process; a convocation program designed to solidify our sense of community; Midsummer Macon; and a vital summer conference program.

The threads that permeate and connect these achievements and many others are an incomparable sense of integrity, intelligence, passion, principled leadership; an unwavering respect for and belief in our students; and a realization, as he says so often, that the academic program of the college is the reason we are all here.

Because I had been at Wesleyan a number of years prior to President Ackerman's arrival, I was able to watch the extraordinary team of Bob Ackerman and Valeria Murphey launch this college into a new era, and I and our students have been fortunate enough to see the realization of their dreams, their devotion, their caring. President Ackerman leaves us beautifully poised to enter another new era, to begin again from a position of strength.



Priscilla R. Danheiser

*Ackerman's  
legacy:  
"...an  
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realization that, as  
he says so often,  
that the academic  
program of the  
college is the  
reason we are  
all here."*



## Calendar of Events

### May

- 14-15 Trustees Meeting  
31 Spring Coffee honoring  
the Ackermans (Macon  
Alumnae Club)

### June

- 15-28 Spectacles I Math &  
Science Camp  
12-7/1 Master of Arts program,  
Session I

### July

- 6-26 MidSummer Macon,  
Wesleyan campus  
7-23 Master of Arts program,  
Session II  
13-26 Spectacles II Math &  
Science Camp

### August

- 23 Residence Halls Open,  
Wesleyan campus  
23-26 Student Orientation  
27 Classes begin

### September

- 11 Fall Convocation



*The Wesleyan spirit of sisterhood*

# WESLEYAN

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